

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2018

Title of report	STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
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Purpose of report	To agree a revised Statement of Community Involvement.
Council Priorities	Value for Money Businesses and Jobs Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	The production of a revised Statement of Community Involvement has been met from existing staff and financial resources.
Link to relevant CAT	None
Risk Management	A failure to engage effectively and constructively in the preparation of the Local Plan and in determining planning applications could leave the Council vulnerable to challenge. Having an up-to-date Statement of Community Involvement will help to minimise this risk.
Equalities Impact Screening	The Statement of Community Involvement will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.
Human Rights	No discernible impact
Transformational Government	Not applicable
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory

Comments of Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory
Consultees	None
Background papers	<p>Consultation responses, copies of which are held by the Planning Policy Team in Room 102.</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework which can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</p> <p>The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 which can found at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2012/767/contents/made</p> <p>The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015 which can be found at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2015/595/contents/made</p> <p>Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 which can be found at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/20/contents/enacted</p>
Recommendation	THAT THE REVISED SCI BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET FOR ADOPTION SUBJECT TO THE AMENDMENTS OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 155) states that in the preparation of Local Plans “*Early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses is essential*”.
- 1.2 Under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 North West Leicestershire District Council is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- 1.3 The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is to set out how the Council will involve the local community, businesses, key organisations and others in preparing its Local Plans, other important planning documents and in processing planning applications. The SCI must also set out how the Council will help neighbourhood plan-making bodies and provide support for neighbourhood planning.
- 1.4 The SCI has been revised in view of a number of recent legislative changes that have taken place. The revised SCI seeks to provide a framework that is more up to date and

mainly to take account of changes introduced in the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. A number of changes that this Act has introduced has implications for the SCI, namely:

- Section 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act requires a local planning authority to notify the parish/town council or neighbourhood forum of relevant planning applications if there is an adopted neighbourhood plan for their area.
- Section 6 of the Act, amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which requires a local planning authority to prepare a SCI. Within its SCI the Council is now required to set out its policy for discharging its duty to give advice or assistance to qualifying bodies i.e. parish/town councils or neighbourhood forums, to facilitate neighbourhood planning and neighbourhood development plans and their preparation.
- In addition, regulations require that the Statement of Community Involvement is reviewed every five years.

1.5 At its meeting on 20 June 2018 the Local Plan Committee considered a report in respect of the need to prepare a revised SCI and it was agreed to undertake a consultation on the revised SCI. A copy of the revised SCI was attached to the report

2.0 CONSULTATION ON STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2.1 Consultation on the SCI was undertaken between 25 June 2018 and 28 August 2018.

2.2 In view of the changes in legislation, outlined in paragraph 1.4 above, the main changes proposed to the current SCI relate to Neighbourhood Planning. It should also be noted that there are a number of other, more minor, changes suggested throughout the SCI. These can be summarised as factual updates and improvements to the readability of the document. The suggested revisions to the current SCI were shown as 'track changes.'

2.3 The consultation was advertised on the Council's website and all individuals and organisations on the Planning Policy database were contacted directly, along with District Councillors, and Parish and Town Councils.

3.0 OUTCOME FROM CONSULTATION

3.1 A total of 8 responses were received in respect of the SCI consultation from agencies and bodies and members of the public.

3.2 A summary of the responses and suggested changes to the SCI is attached at Appendix B to this report

3.3 The revised SCI is attached at Appendix A to this report and incorporates changes made in response to the consultation. The changes are shown in 'bold and underlined' for ease of identification.

3.4 In preparing the new SCI, consideration and reference has been made to the following and appropriate changes have been incorporated within the document:

- Changes in legislation, regulation and national policies (for example, reference to Neighbourhood Plans).
- Responses received in response to the SCI consultation (Summer 2018).

3.5 The SCI satisfies the statutory requirements for consultation and engagement and also seeks to exceed these requirements where appropriate. It also identifies how the Council will support and provide advice to those involved in the neighbourhood planning process.

3.6 Furthermore, the Council is able to adopt its own SCI without it being submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. This reflects the spirit of 'localism' that underpins the current planning system.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

4.1 In accordance with the legislation setting out the exercise of local authority functions and the Council's constitution, the SCI is a matter to be approved by Cabinet. Therefore, subject to the comments of members it will be reported to Cabinet to seek approval to adopt it.

4.2 Once adopted the SCI will be displayed on the Council's website.

4.3 Once adopted it will provide the framework which will be used to guide all future consultation on planning matters.