

<b>NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>		Item 5	Page 1 of 2
Date	<b>25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019</b>		
Report Originator	<b>HEAD OF NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT PLANNING &amp; DELIVERY UNIT</b>		
Title	<b>REVISED NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</b>		

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 For the Joint Committee to agree the revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for consultation.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 All planning authorities are required to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) setting out how they will consult and engage with people over the preparation of development plan documents as well as on planning applications. The original North Northamptonshire SCI was adopted by the Joint Planning Committee in 2006, this was subsequently updated in 2013.

2.2 Under the development plan regulations that were in force in 2006, SCIs were considered to be Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which were consequently required to be prepared in accordance with the regulations and subject to an independent examination. As a joint DPD the SCI was included in the North Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme, and was adopted by the Joint Planning Committee. Changes to the development plan regulations meant that SCI's are no longer considered as DPDs, do not have to be submitted for examination, and there is no longer a prescribed process for preparation. As a consequence of these changes, the JPC no longer has the authority to adopt the SCI other than in so far as it relates to the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and other joint plans. The updated SCI will therefore, also need to be agreed and adopted by the partner LPAs. The preparation of a joint Statement of Community Involvement does, however, alleviate the need for the partner LPAs to prepare and consult on individual documents.

## **3. REVISED SCI**

3.1 The revised SCI is provided in Appendix 1. This has been prepared in consultation with officers of the partner local planning authorities. It has been updated to reflect key changes since the previous iteration in 2013. For example, the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 introduced a new requirement to review local plans and Statements of Community Involvement at least every 5 years from adoption. It also required authorities to set out in their SCIs their policies for giving advice or assistance to neighbourhood planning groups and their policies involving communities and other interested parties in the preliminary stages of plan making:

specifically in the exercise of their functions under sections 13 (survey) and 15 (Local Development Scheme) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Guidance on the Neighbourhood Plan process is now set out in Chapter 5 of the revised SCI.

- 3.2 Other changes to the SCI in this update include; Councils now having to take into consideration bank holidays when considering consultation period lengths, the need to produce a statement of common ground as part of the Duty to Cooperate and the inclusion of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) compliancy with relation to consultation databases.
- 3.3 The SCI does not prescribe consultation requirements beyond Local Plans and planning applications. This allows the LPAs to be flexible in relation to consultations on other documents such as Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 3.4 The revised SCI is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The National Planning Practice Guidance on Plan Making (NPPG) clarifies that the revised SCI does not have to be subject to public consultation before it can be adopted by the Joint Planning Committee and by the partner LPAs. However, following discussions with the partner authorities, it is considered that it would be beneficial to undertake focused consultation on the document to seek wider stakeholder input and ensure buy in. It is recommended that this consultation be undertaken for a 6 week period. Any comments received will be collated by the JPDU and reported back to the July JPC alongside the SCI for formal adoption of the elements relating to joint development plan documents. The partner local planning authorities will in turn need to adopt their elements of the SCI. Further revisions of the SCI may be needed subject to progress with the unitary authorities and to reflect further changes of national planning policy when they arise.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The Head of the NNJPDU recommends that the Joint Committee agrees the revised SCI for consultation.**

Contact Officers: Simon James 01832 742361, Samuel Humphries 01832 742358