

## BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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<b>Report Originator</b>	Head of Development Services	Fwd Plan Ref No:	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	30 September 2013	
<b>Title</b>	NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT CORE STRATEGY – CONSULTATION ON REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT		

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform Members of the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit consultation on the Revised Statement of Community Involvement and to agree the Councils response to this consultation.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Local 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 North Northamptonshire SCI, prepared by the Joint Planning Unit, was adopted by the Joint Planning Committee (JPC) in 2006.
- 2.2 As a result of changes to the Development Plan Regulations the JPC no longer has the authority to adopt the SCI, other than in so far as it relates to the Joint Core Strategy and other joint plans. The SCI, therefore, needs to be agreed and adopted by each individual partner authority. The benefit to preparing a joint SCI is it overcomes the need for the individual partner authorities to prepare and consult upon documents separately. The Statement of Community Involvement has therefore been revised and updated by the JPU on each authority's behalf, to reflect changes made to the Development Plan system since its adoption in 2006.
- 2.3 Members will recall that on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013 they were asked to endorse the North Northamptonshire Revised Statement of Community Involvement for public consultation. The consultation is currently underway and will run until 5pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The purpose of this report is to agree a response to the consultation.

### **3. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- 3.1 The SCI has been revised and updated to reflect the changes to the Development Plan system. The revised SCI is a significantly streamlined document in comparison to the adopted version.

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3.2 A copy of the “North Northamptonshire Revised Statement of Community Involvement” is attached at Appendix 1. The consultation document includes a series of questions for consultees to respond to. A proposed response to these questions is set out below in Section 4.

#### **4. COMMENTS**

4.1 *Question a) Do you agree with the suggested methods of consultation as outlined in chapter 3 of the SCI?*

Proposed response: The Council agrees with the suggested methods of consultation and agrees that while the emphasis will be on electronic communication and online representations, hard copies of documents will continue to be made available and written representations will continue to be accepted.

4.2 *Question b) Should statutory “Duty to Cooperate” consultation bodies also be named in the SCI?*

Proposed response: The Council considers it appropriate to name the statutory duty to co-operate consultation bodies in the SCI given that the specific and general consultation bodies have been named. This will ensure consistency throughout the document.

The Council also recommends that this section of the document elaborates on how best to exercise the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities.

4.3 *Question c) Do you have any further suggestion on consultation on Local Plans?*

Proposed response: The Council recommends that details of how to register on the individual local authority consultation databases are provided in paragraph 4.6. This will avoid any potential misunderstanding that registering on the JPU database will provide notifications for all Development Plan Documents in their area.

4.4 *Question d) Do you agree with the suggested methods of consultation as outlined in chapter 4 of the SCI?*

Proposed response: The Council agrees with the suggested methods of consultation outlined in the SCI.

4.5 *Question e) Do you agree with the definition of Significant Developments in paragraph 5.12 of the SCI?*

Proposed response: The Council agrees with the definition of significant development in paragraph 5.12 but suggests that consideration be afforded to

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adding a “rural areas” threshold into the definition of “locally significant developments”.

The Council also suggests that there is an opportunity in this section of the document to provide developers/applicants with more detail regarding how to demonstrate that the views and opinions of the local community have been taken into consideration.

4.6 *Question f) Do you have any further suggestions on how the LPA’s should consult on planning applications?*

Proposed response: The Council does not have any further suggestions on how LPA’s should consult on planning applications.

4.7 *Question g) Do you have any further comments on the content of the SCI?*

Proposed response: At paragraph 5.7 the Council recommends that reference to “land use considerations” be amended to read “*material planning considerations*”.

At paragraph 5.8 the Council suggests that the first sentence is amended to read “*The minimum scale and type of consultation required on planning applications is set by regulation*”.

The Council suggests that paragraph 5.11 clarifies what is meant by “The period of community involvement undertaken”. It is not clear whether this relates to the consultation that local planning authorities are required to carry out or whether it relates to consultation that the applicant/development should carry out.

## 5. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

5.1 Kettering Borough Council is a consultee, but also works in partnership with the Joint Planning Unit in preparing this document. The Statement of Community Involvement will guide the means by which the Council engages in the preparation of Development Plan Documents and planning applications.

## 6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Statement of Community Involvement will set out the standards to be achieved in involving the community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of the Council’s Development Plan Documents and Development Management decisions.

## 7. USE OF RESOURCES

7.1 None directly related to this report.

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### 8. **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members endorse the comments set out in Section 4 as the Councils response to the Joint Planning Unit consultation on the Revised Statement of Community Involvement.

Contact Officer: Marie Down – Assistant Development Officer