

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Head of Development Services	Fwd Plan Ref No: -	
Wards Affected	All	10 th September 2019	
Title	NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Members agreement for the North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to be presented to Full Council for adoption.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 Local planning authorities are required to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), setting out how they will consult and engage in the preparation of Local Plan Documents, as well as in determining planning applications. Preparation of the North Northamptonshire SCI has been led by the Joint Planning Unit, with input by the partner councils. However, the partner authorities are required to adopt the SCI independently of the Joint Planning Committee.
- 2.2 The current SCI was adopted by Full Council on 26th February 2014, this followed an update and the revised document being agreed by Members of the Planning Policy Committee with a recommendation for its adoption. The same approach is again proposed.
- 2.3 Officers from the North Northamptonshire authorities, together with the Joint Planning and Delivery Unit, have revised the SCI. Changes include a new requirement introduced by the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 to review local plans and Statements of Community Involvement at least every 5 years from adoption. In addition to this, it also requires local authorities to state their policies for providing advice or assistance to neighbourhood planning groups as well as involving communities and other interested parties in the preliminary stages of plan making.
- 2.4 In addition, Councils now have to take into account Bank Holidays when deciding on the duration of consultation periods as well as the need to produce a Statement of Common Ground as part of the Duty to Cooperate and compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in relation to consultation databases.
- 2.5 It is not a requirement to consult on the revised SCI however, it was considered it would be beneficial to undertake a focused consultation to allow for wider stakeholder input. The consultation was subsequently undertaken between 2nd May to 13th June 2019. Seven responses were received, as listed below:
- Natural England

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- Historic England
- Cambridgeshire Police
- Rushden and Higham Council of Churches, Church and Community Planning Partnership
- Rothwell Town Council
- Braybrooke Parish Council
- 1 resident

- 2.6 Cambridgeshire Police and Rothwell Town Council responded with no comment, as did Natural England, although they did support the emphasis placed on early engagement. Also, in relation to early engagement, one resident stated that more emphasis should be placed on this stage, particularly with regard to communities who could be affected by future development, specifically in relation to the allocation of sites in Part 2 Plans. As a result of this, text has been added to paragraph 4.6 to provide additional clarity of how local planning authorities will engage with local communities.
- 2.7 The comments received from Braybrooke Parish Council covered a number of issues. The first was the issue of the role of Parish Councils in the new unitary authority once it becomes the governing authority for North Northamptonshire. It was considered more appropriate that this issue be addressed not in this version of the SCI but a future version once the unitary authority is vested. The second matter raised was that of electronic communications, specifically with regards to e-mail communication during consultations and what is possible within current General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), and how those who don't access the internet are reached during consultations. No changes resulted, it was considered this emphasis is sufficiently addressed in the SCI.
- 2.8 Rushden and Higham Council of Churches, Church and Community Planning Partnership commented that the SCI should provide clarity with regards to where consultation is a statutory requirement for plan making. As a result of this comment, an addition to para 4.18 has been made.
- 2.9 A copy of the updated SCI is provided at **Appendix A**, and the full schedule of comments and changes made as a result of the consultation can be found at **Appendix B**.
- 2.10 The SCI was presented to the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee on 25th July 2019, where it was agreed that each of the partner authorities be asked to adopt the SCI in relation to their responsibilities. It is therefore asked that Members of this committee endorse the revised SCI and invite Full Council to adopt the revised document.

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3. **CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT**

- 3.1 The draft SCI was subject to thorough consultation, Kettering Borough Council acted as a consultee in its development.

4. **POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 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. There are no resource implications as a direct result of this report. The costs borne in consulting on the Council's Development Plan Documents and planning applications are accounted for in the Development Services revenue budget.

5. **LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The SCI will meet the Council's requirement to set out how it will consult in the preparation of Local Plan Documents and on planning applications. As a document it sets out how the Council will seek to ensure equality in accessing and responding on planning matters.

6. **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None

7. **RECOMMENDATION**

Members note the contents of this report and recommend to Full Council that the revised Statement of Community Involvement be agreed for adoption.

Previous Reports/Minutes

Title of Document: Full Council: North Northamptonshire Statement of Community
Date: 26th February 2014

Title of Document: North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement
Date: 30th January 2014

Title of Document: North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement
– Changes Post Consultation for Adoption

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Date: November 2013

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