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| Report to | Planning Committee |
| Date | 23 January 2014 |
| By | Director of Planning |
| Title of Report | South Downs National Park Updated Statement of Community Involvement and Local Development Scheme |
| Purpose of Report | To gain approval from Members of the updated Statement of Community Involvement and Local Development Scheme. |

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the Statement of Community Involvement (First Revision)**
 - 2) Approve the Local Development Scheme (Second Revision)**
 - 3) Agree that any subsequent minor changes are delegated to the Director of Planning in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee.**
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1. Introduction and Summary

- 1.1 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) First Revision (**Appendix 1**) sets out the processes and methods of consultation and community engagement that the Authority will undertake during the development of all planning policy and the process of determination of planning applications being carried out by local, and minerals and waste planning authorities.
- 1.2 The first Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in March 2012. This adopted SCI has been updated to take into account changes to national planning policy and legislation. The consultation principles remain unchanged.
- 1.3 The second revision of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) (**Appendix 2**) sets out the National Park Authority's latest timetable for the preparation of the South Downs National Park Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy. This replaces the first revision adopted in August 2012.
- 1.4 This report sets out the revisions and updates that has been undertaken and the purpose and scope of both documents.

2. The Statement of Community Involvement

- 2.1 In preparing the first SCI, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) notified individuals, groups and organisations of its intention to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement and invited people to provide their comments and views on how and when they would like to get involved in the planning policy and planning application processes. The comments received informed the draft SCI.
- 2.2 A second consultation was then carried out for eight weeks between 17 October 2011 and 9 December 2011. This asked for comments on the content, format and ease of use of the document. These comments informed the final Statement of Community Involvement, which was then adopted on 13 March 2012.
- 2.3 Since the adoption of the SCI in 2012, a number of changes to the planning system have occurred including:
 - Publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012.
 - Regulations relating to Neighbourhood Plans came into effect in 2012.

- The Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 came into effect.
 - The partial revocation of the South East Plan Regional Spatial Strategy in 2013.
- 2.4 The Statement of Community Involvement First Revision takes these changes into account and makes the required factual changes. The consultation principles, informed by previous consultation and agreed in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) March 2012 remain unchanged.

3. The Local Development Scheme (LDS)

- 3.1 The National Park Authority will produce a Park-wide Local Plan. It will establish the strategic policies for the National Park, include key development management policies and identify specific sites for development. The Local Development Scheme sets out the programme for preparing the National Park Local Plan.
- 3.2 This is the second revision on the South Downs National Park LDS. It sets out the programme for the four years from 2014 to 2018. It replaces the LDS adopted by the NPA in October 2011 and the first revision adopted in August 2012.
- 3.3 The timetable included in the proposed revisions to the Local Development Scheme was agreed by the National Park Authority on 19 February 2013. A summary of these revisions are set out in the table below:

| | I st Revision of LDS | Proposed 2 nd Revision |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| National Park Local Plan | | |
| Issues and Options Consultation | March-April 2013 | February-March 2014 |
| Preferred Options Consultation | March-April 2014 | January-February 2015 |
| Submission | June 2015 | June 2016 |
| Adoption | June 2016 | June 2017 |
| Community Infrastructure Levy | | |
| Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule | March-April 2013 | February-March 2014 |
| Draft Charging Schedule | March-April 2014 | January-February 2015 |
| Submission | June 2015 | February 2015 |
| Adoption | June 2016 | September 2015 |

4. Resources

- 4.1 The production of the Local Plan will require significant South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) staff and Member resource. The Planning Policy team has four officers focused on the Local Plan work: the Planning Policy Manager, Local Plan Lead and two Planning Policy Officers. However, with the staff restructure there will be significant input from the new teams (Living Landscapes, People & Places and Sustainable Future) to ensure that the Local Plan reflects the priorities for the National Park as set out in the Special Qualities, the *State of the Park Report*, the vision and recently adopted *Partnership Management Plan*.
- 4.2 It should also be recognised all four planning policy officers contribute to work beyond the Local Plan, including:
- the National Park Partnership Management Plan
 - individual corporate projects and joint working
 - Neighbourhood Plans
 - Joint Core Strategies and commenting on adjoining Local Plans
 - Community Infrastructure Levy
 - Responding to Development Management consultations
 - Work on Planning Appeals
 - Working with other local planning authorities through the Duty to Cooperate

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 Risk: Without a comprehensive, sound and robust planning policy framework for the National Park, underpinned by up-to-date evidence, the Authority risks losing control over inappropriate new development, which may be allowed on appeal, and lose opportunities to guide and facilitate appropriate new development.
- 5.2 Mitigation: These risks are significantly reduced through the preparation of a sound Local Plan for the South Downs National Park which is in line with the timescales set out in the project plan (LDS), which is part of the formal 'soundness' test at the examination.
- 5.3 Risk: Without a robust and up to date Statement of Community Involvement, the Authority risks preparing a Local Plan without a clear process for how consultation and engagement will inform the process and the ability to demonstrate that this will meet the requirements to consult, which will be tested at the examination.
- 5.4 Mitigation: These risks are significantly reduced by adopting the revised Statement of Community Involvement.

6. Crime and Disorder Implication

- 6.1 There are no implications arising from this.

7. Human Rights Implications

- 7.1 There are no implications arising from this.

8. Equalities Act 2010

- 8.1 None

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 None

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Appendices
1. Statement of Community Involvement First Revision (updated January 2014)
2. Local Development Scheme Second Revision (January 2014)

SDNPA Consultees
Chief Executive Officer, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Planning, Director of Operations, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Legal Services Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer, Planning Policy Manager, Minerals and Waste Lead.

Background Documents
National Park Authority Meeting 19 February 2013 Agenda Item 9 Report 02/13

http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/308030/Agenda-item-9.pdf

http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/308031/Agenda-item-9-App-1.pdf

http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/308032/Agenda-item-9-App-2.pdf

http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/308033/Agenda-item-9-App-3.pdf