

Report to	<b>Planning Committee</b>
Date	<b>10 August 2017</b>
By	<b>Director of Planning</b>
Title of Report	<b>Review of SDNPA Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)</b>
Purpose of Report	<b>To gain approval from Members of the updated Statement of Community Involvement</b>

**Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to approve the South Downs National Park Authority Statement of Community Involvement (Version 3) 2017 and agree that further minor amendments may be made by the Director of Planning in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee.**

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Version 3 2017 (**Appendix I**) 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 SCI was adopted in March 2012 and the First Revision subsequently approved in January 2014. This adopted SCI has been updated to take into account changes in legislation. The consultation principles remain unchanged.
- 1.3 This report sets out the revisions and updates that have been undertaken and the purpose and scope of the document.

## **2. Statement of Community Involvement**

- 2.1 In preparing the original SCI, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) notified individuals, groups and organisations of its intention to prepare a SCI 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 original 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 original SCI, which was then adopted on 13 March 2012 and later revised in 2014.
- 2.3 Since the First Revision SCI in 2014 the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 became law on 27 April 2017. Along with other changes, measures in the Act make the following changes:
  - (i) Section 6 made it necessary for Local Planning Authorities to set out in their SCI the policies for giving advice or assistance on proposals for the making, or modification, of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP).
  - (ii) Local Planning Authorities must take account of well-advanced neighbourhood development plans and give these plans full legal effect at an earlier stage, and an adopted Neighbourhood development Plan forms part of the Development Plan.

- (iii) Local Planning Authorities must notify the Parish Council (or neighbourhood Forum) of planning applications if there is a Neighbourhood Development Plan in place in that area.
  - (iv) Section 13 amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to require local planning authorities to set out in their SCI their policies for involving interested parties in the preliminary stages of plan-making. The original SCI is already compliant with this requirement.
- 2.4 The SCI Version 3 takes these changes into account and makes the required factual changes and sets out our policies on giving advice or assistance on proposals for the making of NDPs, and that we must take well-advanced neighbourhood development plans into account in making planning decisions and give these plans full legal effect at an earlier stage.
- 2.5 The consultation principles, informed by previous consultation and agreed in the SCI March 2012 and First Revision 2014 remain unchanged.
- 2.6 The revised SCI also takes into account the change in recovered planning services within the Park, the minerals and waste plans adopted since the last review of the SCI, and provides a link to the new Validation List. Other changes have been made to the layout, further helpful information added, and web links added.

### 3. Planning Committee

The SCI was adopted at Planning Committee on 16 February 2012 and the revisions to the SCI First Revision were agreed at Planning Committee on 23 January 2014. Minor changes were recommended by committee and these changes were made.

### 4. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No further decisions will be required by another committee.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	<p>The nature and extent of the consultation and community involvement methods identified in this document have been influenced by staff capacity, timescales identified in the current version of the Local Development Scheme and the resources available.</p> <p>The support provided to Parish and Town Councils in the preparation of NDPs will have an impact on staff as a resource.</p> <p>The SDNPA may be able to draw on some New Burdens funding for financial support for a NDP referendum and examination, however this does not cover the staff resource.</p> <p>Early engagement and consulting with the community on the production of the Local Plan will have an impact on staff as a resource.</p>
Has due regard been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	The South Downs National Park Authority has had due regard to the Equality Act 2010. In consulting with the local community the SDNPA will take all reasonable efforts to make documents accessible to everyone. In doing so the SDNPA will use a range of methods to engage with specific groups, which are often considered 'hard to reach' (protected characteristic groups).

Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	In the preparation of the SCI the SDNPA has had regard for current legislation particularly the Human Rights Act 1998.
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	There are no Crime & Disorder implications arising from the SCI.
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	There are no Health & Safety implications arising from the SCI.
<p>Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Living within environmental limits</li> <li>2. Ensuring a strong healthy and just society</li> <li>3. Achieving a sustainable economy</li> <li>4. Promoting good governance</li> <li>5. Using sound science responsibly</li> </ol>	A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of a NDP may be required and if so this will need to incorporate the requirements of the European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEA).

## 5. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Out of date Statement of Community Involvement.	High	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.	These risks are significantly reduced by adopting the revised Statement of Community Involvement.

**TIM SLANEY**

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Appendices 1. Statement of Community Involvement Version 3 2017

SDNPA Legal Services; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer

Consultees

External None

Consultees

Background Statement of Community Involvement First Revision January

Documents 2014: <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/national-park-local-plan/evidence-and-supporting-documents/statement-of-community-involvement/>

Neighbourhood Planning Act

2017: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/20/contents/enacted/data.htm>