

## **10. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

### **1. Purpose of the report**

To inform members about the process and consultation that has taken place leading to the proposed revision of the Statement of Community Involvement.

#### **Recommendation:**

#### **1. That Members adopt the revised Statement of Community Involvement.**

### **2. Background**

The preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a statutory requirement from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It explains how the National Park Authority will involve individuals, local communities and stakeholders in planning processes. Once the SCI is adopted, all planning policy documents and the determination of planning applications must conform to the engagement processes described in the SCI.

The SCI was first prepared in 2006 and was reviewed in 2012. The document should be reviewed every 5 years and therefore, in line with these requirements, we are reviewing the document again.

The overall style and length of the SCI remains largely unchanged since it was first reviewed in 2012. A review of the 2012 SCI was mainly required to take account of legislative changes, changes to organisations' names and contact information, and changes to internal procedures. However the Authority has also used the review as an opportunity to adapt the SCI to improve communication with Parish and Town Councils and to update items that were previously incorrect/missing in the 2012 SCI. In particular, it is proposed to:

- Ensure that the Authority notifies the relevant Town or Parish Council that a planning application has been withdrawn.
- Direct those that have commented on a planning application (with the exception of Town and Parish Councils) to the Authority's website to view the Decision Notice/Officer report rather than sending them a copy of the Decision Notice.
- Ensure that Town and Parish Councils receive a copy of the Decision Notice for all applications that occur in their area, rather than just those that are contrary to their recommendation. (This change reflects what is currently done by the Authority).
- Include sections on the Brownfield Land Register, Permission in Principle and Technical Details Consent.
- Add Barnsley, Oldham and North East Derbyshire Councils to the locations where Development Plan Documents will be deposited; these Councils were previously excluded from the list.
- Make reference to anonymous comments and state that the Authority will not take these into account.
- Amend the Neighbourhood Planning section to make reference to the requirement that '*more than 50% of voters agree*' rather than '*50% of voters agree*' to reflect legislation.

- Include a map showing the location of the libraries where Development Plan Documents are deposited.
- Amend the categorisation of planning applications to reflect legislation.
- Expand 'Table 3' (Consultation Guidelines for Planning Applications) to include Lawful Development Certificates, departures, EIA applications, and developments affecting a Public Right of Way. Conservation Area Consents have been deleted following their withdrawal by Central Government and Listed Building Consent and Advertisement Consent have been placed in separate boxes.
- Include information regarding the broadcasting of Planning Committee meetings and the subsequent 'listen again' function, as well as changes to legislation that allow members of the public to record, photograph, film etc. open meetings.

### 3. **Proposals**

The proposed SCI is attached as **Appendix 1**. The intention is to encourage as many people and organisations as possible to get involved in the planning processes. However, a reasonable balance must be achieved between the need for speed in preparation and decision-making, and the resources available to the Authority. The methods set out in this document aim to achieve this.

Drafts of the SCI have been subject to two rounds of consultation. The first, undertaken between November and December 2017, targeted Town and Parish Councils, planning agents, the Peak Park Parishes Forum and a small number of statutory consultees. The second, undertaken between March and May 2018 targeted Town and Parish Councils, constituent and neighbouring authorities, other non-statutory consultees including planning agents, and statutory consultees. Details of the responses received and subsequent amendments made to the SCI are shown in the Consultation Statements at **Appendices 2 and 3**.

Only a small number of responses were received; 5 during the first consultation and 8 during the second consultation. The majority of the responses were supportive of the Revised SCI, with only some minor additions requested to be added to the text.

Some responses led to changes being made to the Draft SCI, including notifying Parish and Town Councils when an application is withdrawn; making the term 'member site inspections' clearer; and adding text to the Neighbourhood Plans section regarding when a Plan crosses Local Planning Authority boundaries.

Other requested changes (i.e. the use of site notices, notifying Parish & Town Councils of Prior Notification applications, retaining invalid applications on the Authority's website, and sending Decision Notices via email) were noted and considered, but did not result in a change to the Revised SCI or a change in the Local Planning Authority's procedures. The reasons for these decisions are outlined in the Consultation Statements (see **Appendices 2 and 3**).

**Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?**

### 4. **Financial:**

Provision has been made in the budget for the costs of making the SCI available to the public at a number of constituent Authority offices and libraries around the National

Park and on the Authority's website, and placing an adoption Notice in the local press. Town and Parish Councils will be sent a copy of the adopted version.

**5. Risk Management:**

Having an up-to-date SCI is one of the soundness tests for the preparation of Development Plan Documents, hence reduces the risks at the examination stage. It is important to be able to demonstrate how the standards have been taken into account in the planning processes.

**6. Sustainability:**

None

**7. Consultees:**

Brian Taylor  
John Scott

**8. Background papers** (not previously published)

None

**9. Appendices**

Appendix 1: Revised Statement of Community Involvement, May 2018

Appendix 2: Summary of Comments Received, January 2018

Appendix 3: Summary of Comments Received, May 2018

**Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date**

Ailsa Berry, Policy Planner, 17 May 2018