

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**BUSINESS, INNOVATION, EMPLOYMENT
AND SKILLS CABINET MEMBER**

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE (2017 TO 2036)
STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - DRAFT**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to publish for public and stakeholder consultation the Draft Statement of Community Involvement.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet Member's approval to publish for public and stakeholder consultation the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- 2.2 Section 14 of Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires local planning authorities to produce an SCI, as part of their Local Plans.
- 2.3 The SCI sets out the methods that will be used to encourage and facilitate participation at the different stages of the Local Plan preparation and encourages community involvement at the early stages when ideas are being developed. The methods of community involvement used will depend on the document in question and the stage of preparation.
- 2.4 The SCI also sets out a commitment to consultation on planning applications, in particular those considered to be major planning applications. Local planning authorities are required to undertake a formal period of public consultation prior to deciding a planning application. For major applications, developers should seek to undertake community engagement as part of the process of preparing them.
- 2.5 North Lincolnshire Council's first SCI was drawn up as part of the Local Development Framework system and adopted in April 2006. It was reviewed in 2009 with a revised version being adopted in July 2010. Since these SCIs were prepared and adopted, a number of changes have taken place. In particular, there have been changes to the way in which consultation can be undertaken, reductions in funding and changes to the Government's approach to plan-making.

- 2.6 The use of electronic communications such as e-mail, social media and websites, as a means of engaging and communicating with communities has grown considerably in recent years. This change from more traditional forms of communication and engagement has taken place against a backdrop of reductions in council funding and resources.
- 2.7 The use of electronic communication tools (e-mail, social media and the web) will be central element in ensuring that the council continues to consult, involve and engage with its communities and stakeholders in the plan making process, whilst making best use of the resources available.
- 2.8 More recent legislation in the form of the Localism Act 2011 has given local communities more of a say into how plans for their areas are prepared, whilst the Government policy, set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, March 2012) places significant emphasis on community engagement. It states that *“Early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbours, local organisations and businesses are essential. A wide selection of the community should be proactively engaged, so that Local Plans, as far as possible, reflect a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities for the sustainable development of the area...”*
- 2.9 North Lincolnshire Council is working on a new approach to planning policy through a new style Local Plan. It is considered to be the right time for the council to review its SCI.
- 2.10 There is no need to consult on the SCI, however best practice dictates that it would be advisable for the council to do. It is suggested that a period of four weeks is the most appropriate to allow local people and other key stakeholders to put forward their views on the Draft SCI.

3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The recommendation is to approve the Draft Statement of Community Involvement and publish it for a four week period of public and stakeholder consultation.

4 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option. This will allow North Lincolnshire Council to review/update the Statement of Community Involvement to take account of national planning policy changes and to reflect changes in the methods available for community engagement. Undertaking consultation will be in line with best practice for involving communities in developing planning policies.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

Financial resources will be needed to undertake the consultation. These will be taken from the existing Local Plan budget.

5.2 Staffing

Staffing resources will be drawn from existing officers within Spatial Planning.

5.3 Property

There are no additional property implications arising from this report.

5.4 IT

There are no IT implications.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken and where appropriate, the outcomes included in this report.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

- 7.1 No consultation has taken place as yet. The comments received during the four week consultation period will be considered and the Draft SCI will be amended prior to its adoption.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member:

- a) Approves the Draft Statement of Community Involvement and that it is published for a four week consultation period.
- b) That this report is referred to Planning Committee for information.
- c) That the outcomes of the consultation are reported to the Cabinet Member, alongside an amended version of the Statement of Community prior to adoption.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report

Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

Localism Act 2011

National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)