

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 29 June 2020

Title: Statement of Community Involvement 2020

Portfolio:	Deputy Mayor	Cabinet Member:	Councillor Bruce Pickard
Report from Service Area:	Environment, Housing and Leisure		
Responsible Officer:	Phil Scott – Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure	Tel: (0191) 643 7295	
Wards affected:	All Wards		

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is the Council's statement on how the local community and others will be involved in the preparation of planning policy and the consideration of planning applications. It is a statutory requirement for Councils to adopt a SCI and regulations now set out that they should be updated every five years.

Cabinet adopted the Council's existing SCI on 9 September 2013. This report presents an updated SCI prepared to ensure the Council's policy regarding consultation on planning matters is up to date and consistent with the latest regulations, national guidance and local policy.

The Draft updated SCI is available at Appendix 1.

1.2 Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) Consider the proposed changes to the Statement of Community Involvement; and
- (2) Adopt the updated Statement of Community Involvement 2020 to set policy for consultation on development plan preparation and planning applications.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty-eight days' notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 29 May 2020.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report links to the 'Our North Tyneside' Council Plan 2020-2024, including:

- Our people will be listened to so that their experience helps the Council work better for residents.
- Our places will be great places to live, provide an attractive, safe and sustainable environment and be a thriving place of choice for visitors.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Introduction

1.5.2 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a document that sets out the Council's policy and requirements for engagement on planning matters. The current SCI was approved by Cabinet in September 2013 and can be found on the Council's website here: <http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1149/planning-policy-timetable-and-consultation-guidance>

1.5.3 It is a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to have an adopted SCI and review and update the document every five years.

1.5.4 Role and content of the Statement of Community Involvement

1.5.5 The SCI is the Council's statement on how the local community and others will be involved in the preparation of planning policy and the consideration of planning applications. Once adopted, Local Authorities must comply with their SCI.

1.5.6 *Consultation on planning policy documents:* this section of the SCI outlines what the public can expect from the Council in consultation on planning policy documents such as the Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents.

1.5.7 *Requirements for neighbourhood plans:* the preparation of neighbourhood plans include specific requirements for consultation and engagement with local communities. These requirements and the approach of the Council are set out within the SCI.

1.5.8 *Consultation on planning applications:* the SCI explains the development management process and how the Council will notify and consult with the community on planning applications.

1.5.9 Updates Required to the Statement of Community Involvement

1.5.10 Since the adoption of the existing SCI in 2013, a series of new legislation and local and national planning policy and guidance has been introduced, which should be reflected within an updated SCI.

1.5.11 *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019:* The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be prepared and applied at local level. The NPPF itself does not create any substantial changes to be reflected in the SCI other than clarity of referencing and contextual discussion.

1.5.12 *National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) 2014 onwards:* The NPPG is a web-based resource providing planning guidance on a range of topics. Launched in March 2014 and updated regularly, the NPPG itself does not create any substantial changes to be reflected in the SCI other than clarity of referencing and contextual discussion.

- 1.5.13 *The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 and its amendments*: The General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) does not alter any requirements for consultation. However, it does change some aspects of permitted development that could result in the public expecting a planning application, with associated consultation, where there is no longer a requirement for an application.
- 1.5.14 *Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017*: The Act requires the SCI to set out exactly how a Council will help neighbourhood plan making bodies. At present the SCI states that the Council will assist, manage and support but does not give any further detail about what this support would entail. This requires amendment in an updated SCI.
- 1.5.15 *Housing and Planning Act 2016 - Brownfield land register, Self-build register and the Permission in Principle*: A range of new planning consent processes have been introduced since 2013. This includes the brownfield land register, which includes provisions for some sites to be granted Permission in Principle. Applicants now also have the opportunity to request the Local Planning Authority grants Permission in Principle, rather than seek outline planning consent.
- 1.5.16 *North Tyneside Local Plan 2017*: The Local Plan sets out the planning policies and proposals to guide development within North Tyneside up to 2032. The Local Plan itself does not create any substantial changes to be reflected in the SCI other than clarity of referencing and contextual discussion.
- 1.5.17 A section should be added to the SCI relating to the monitoring of planning documents and the revised government requirements that require a review of Local Plan documents at least every five years.
- 1.5.18 Additionally, the references and web links throughout the existing SCI are out-of-date and require updating.
- 1.5.19 The Draft updated SCI is available at **Appendix 1**.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Agree with the recommendations as set out at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

Option 2

Do not approve the recommendations as set out at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

- Under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council must prepare a SCI that sets out the Council's approach to engagement in planning matters. The existing SCI does not reflect current legalisation and

planning policy and therefore does not accurately set out the Council's position in this regard.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2020

1.9 Contact officers:

Claire Dobinson Booth, Senior Planning Officer (0191 643 6341)

Martin Craddock, Planning Policy Team Leader (0191 643 6329)

Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager, Technical & Regulatory Services (0191 643 6620)

David Dunford, Acting Senior Business Partner (0191 643 7027)

1.10 Background information:

The following background information has been used in the compilation of this report and is available at the office of the author:

1. [North Tyneside Local Plan 2017](#)
2. [Statement of Community Involvement 2013](#)
3. [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#)
4. [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
5. [National Planning Practice Guidance - Plan-making 2019](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The staff, printing and other costs to publish the Draft updated SCI will be met from within the existing budgets. All documents will be placed on the Authority's website.

2.2 Legal

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Local Planning Authorities must prepare a SCI as part of their Local Development Framework.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The matter has been subject to dialogue with the Deputy Mayor.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The existing SCI was subject to consultation with statutory consultees, the public and other stakeholders for a six-week period in July/August 2013. The responses arising from this consultation were considered in preparing the final 2013 SCI.

There is no statutory requirement to consult upon a SCI. The Draft updated SCI represents changes that the Authority is required to make to ensure the SCI remains in accordance with planning law. The changes do not affect the fundamental approach of the Authority to involving the community in the planning process established in the existing SCI.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

An inclusive approach to consultation and participation recognising the diversity of the community is built into the SCI.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications directly arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

The SCI has no direct environmental and sustainability implications, but the processes for involving the community in decisions on planning policies and planning applications is in line with the Council's commitment to help to create sustainable communities.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Head of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service