

Environment, Development and Transport Committee

Report title:	Norfolk County Council Statement of Community Involvement
Date of meeting:	12 October 2018
Responsible Chief Officer:	Tom McCabe – Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services
Strategic impact Norfolk County Council, as a County Planning Authority (CPA), has a statutory duty to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and to review it every five years. The SCI sets out how the CPA will involve the community in the preparation and review of minerals and waste planning policy documents and in the consideration of planning applications being determined by the CPA.	

Executive summary

There is an existing Norfolk County Council Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which was adopted in September 2012. As over five years have passed since the adoption of the SCI in 2012, it has been reviewed in accordance with the timetable contained in Norfolk County Council's adopted Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS), to ensure that it remains up-to-date. The revised 2018 SCI for adoption is attached as Appendix 1.

Recommendations:

EDT Committee is asked to recommend Full Council to:

1. Resolve to formally adopt the 2018 Norfolk Statement of Community Involvement (Appendix 1 to this report)

1. Proposal

- 1.1. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) Norfolk County Council, as a County Planning Authority (CPA), is required to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out how the County Planning Authority will involve the community in the preparation and review of minerals and waste planning policy documents (local development documents) and in the consideration of planning applications being determined by the CPA.
- 1.2. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended in December 2017) require SCIs to be reviewed every five years, starting with the date of adoption of the SCI. Over five years have passed since the adoption of the existing SCI in 2012 and there have been a number of changes to the Council Constitution, national planning legislation, policy and guidance. Appendix 2 to this report details the main changes between the existing 2012 SCI and the 2018 SCI recommended for adoption.
- 1.3. A draft Statement of Community Involvement was published for consultation over a six week period from 29 June to 13 August 2018. The consultation was publicised on the Norfolk County Council website and a notice in the EDP. The draft SCI was available for inspection at the main offices of Norfolk's Local Planning Authorities and at each of Norfolk's public libraries. The following

organisations were contacted directly by email or letter to inform them of the consultation: all parish councils in Norfolk and adjacent to Norfolk, all Local Planning Authorities in Norfolk and adjacent to Norfolk, Historic England, Natural England, Highways England, minerals and waste operators and their agents; as well as all of the other consultees listed in Appendix 1 of the SCI.

- 1.4. Five responses were received to the consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement. The respondents were: Cheshire East Council, Natural England, Historic England, NCC Lead Local Flood Authority and one individual. The comments received are contained in Appendix 3 to this report, along with the Planning Policy Officer's response to the comments made.
- 1.5. Whilst only five responses were received to the consultation on the draft SCI, the document was consulted on at the same time, using the same methods as the Initial Consultation on the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review. Over eight hundred responses have been received to the Initial Consultation on the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review. Therefore, it is considered that the low response to the SCI consultation was due to stakeholders not having any comments to make on the draft document, rather than a lack of awareness of the consultation.
- 1.6. The revised 2018 SCI is therefore recommended for adoption and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Following adoption by full Council, as soon as reasonably practicable the 2018 SCI will be published on Norfolk County Council's website and be made available for inspection as required by the relevant legislation.

2. Evidence

- 2.1. The revised SCI takes into account changes in the County Council's constitution, national planning regulations, national and local planning policy and guidance that have taken place since 2012.
- 2.2. The alternative options would be either to not adopt the revised SCI, or to amend the SCI prior to adoption.
- 2.3. Not adopting the revised SCI would result in the existing 2012 SCI, which is now out-of-date in a number of places, remaining in place; therefore this option is not recommended.
- 2.4. Members could decide to amend the contents of the 2018 SCI prior to adoption, as long as the 2018 SCI was still consistent with the Council constitution, relevant legislation, planning policy and guidance.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. None. The costs of producing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review were contained in the May 2018 EDT Committee report and no additional costs will be incurred from the consultation standards in the revised SCI. No additional costs will be incurred in the determination of planning applications from the consultation standards in the 2018 SCI.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1. There is a legal duty under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ("the 2004 Act") to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement. In addition, the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended in December 2017) also require SCIs to be reviewed every five years, starting with the date of adoption of the SCI.
- 4.2. The SCI will be published on Norfolk County Council's website and made available for inspection as required by the relevant legislation.

- 4.3. As part of the examination of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review a Planning Inspector will assess not only whether the M&WLPR is sound, but also whether it satisfies various statutory requirements imposed by the 2004 Act. These include a requirement that it has been prepared in accordance with the adopted SCI.

5. Background

- 5.1. The current Norfolk Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS) came into effect on 1 June 2018, as resolved at the May 2018 EDT Committee meeting. The MWDS contains the timetable for the review of the SCI. The timetable states that public consultation on the draft document will take place during June and July 2018 and that adoption of the SCI will take place in October 2018.
- 5.2. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that the SCI must be adopted by resolution of the local planning authority.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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