

# DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	16 SEPTEMBER 2015	5

## UPDATED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

#### SUMMARY

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all local planning authorities to prepare a 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI). The SCI details the parties to be consulted, and the manner of consultation, both during the process of determining planning applications, and in formulating Development Plans. Fylde Borough Council's current Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted by the council on 26 September 2011.

The current SCI is out of date due to various changes to planning legislation in particular:

- the Localism Act 2011, which was formally adopted in November 2011;
- the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which saw the transition from Local Development Frameworks to Local Plans and the introduction of neighbourhood planning;
- the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012;
- the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015; and
- the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

As the council is under a legal requirement to have an up to date SCI it is considered that due to the significant changes to the planning system and legislation over the last four years there is a need for a new updated SCI.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the draft Updated Statement of Community Involvement be approved for 6 weeks consultation at the same time as the Revised Preferred Options Local Plan to 2032.

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

To Promote the Enhancement of The Natural & Built Environment ( <b>Place</b> )	√	To Encourage Cohesive Communities ( <b>People</b> )	√
To Promote a Thriving Economy ( <b>Prosperity</b> )	√	To Meet Expectations of our Customers ( <b>Performance</b> )	√

## **SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

Fylde Borough Council's initial Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted by the council in July 2007. Due to changes in legislation an updated version of the SCI was approved in September 2011.

## **REPORT**

### UPDATED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) demonstrates Fylde Borough Council's commitment to engage with local people and other stakeholders in planning issues. The SCI is one of a collection of documents that make up the Development Plan. For most local planning authorities it is the first document that they produce, as it sets out how they are going to consult on the other documents that will make up the Development Plan. It provides a structured approach to engaging with local people and organisations across Fylde borough in the preparation of planning policy documents and determination of planning applications.
2. The SCI describes the purpose of SCI's, the new planning system of Development Plans and Local Plans, the register of consultees, methods of consultation that will be used, how the Council will respond to consultees, weight to be given to representations and resource implications. For Development Management it sets out consultation methods, weight to be given to representations, reporting back mechanisms, the scheme of delegation, the procedures of Development Management Committee and resource implications. The purpose of the SCI is to set out clearly what people and organisations can expect to happen when they engage with the Local Planning Authority.
3. The council's first Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted in 2007, this was subsequently updated in September 2011 due to new and amended legislation. Since then there has been a raft of new legislation which has reshaped and changed the planning system, through the introduction of the Localism Act 2011, the abolition of regional spatial strategies and the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012.
4. The Localism Act 2011, and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), introduced in 2012, consolidated the plan preparation process, replacing the term 'Local Development Framework' with the term 'Local Plan'. Therefore a revised SCI is needed to reflect these changes.
5. A further key objective of this new legislation, was to strengthen local community participation and stakeholder involvement in shaping future development and reaching planning decisions, through the introduction of Neighbourhood Development Plans. Fylde Borough Council aims to build on the foundation of this legislation and provide a transparent, user friendly and accessible platform to encourage and maximise public participation.
6. The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Amendment) Regulations 2008 and 2009 removed the statutory requirement for local planning authorities to submit their SCI to the Secretary of State for independent examination. However, there is a requirement to consult statutory consultees for a minimum of 28 days. Therefore, as the Revised Preferred Options Local Plan to 2032 is being put out for public consultation in October 2015, it was decided to consult on the updated draft SCI at the same time. Once this consultation period has finished the council will consider all the responses and amend the SCI accordingly. Following this the council will formally adopt the SCI.

## CONCLUSION

The September 2011 SCI is out of date with respect to existing planning legislation. An updated version of the SCI has therefore been drafted. An updated SCI is needed to progress the Local Plan, as the Local Plan could be found to be unsound if the council do not have an up to date SCI.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	Production of a SCI is a legal requirement.
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	The SCI protects peoples Human Rights by setting out what they can expect from the consultation process.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There is a risk the emerging Local Plan could be found unsound if the council proceeded to Publication without updating the SCI.

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Statement of Community Involvement	August 2015	<a href="http://www.fylde.gov.uk/council/planning-policy--local-plan-/local-development-framework/evidence-base/statement-community-involvement/">http://www.fylde.gov.uk/council/planning-policy--local-plan-/local-development-framework/evidence-base/statement-community-involvement/</a>

### Attached documents

Appendix 1. Draft updated Statement of Community Involvement (September 2015)