

## PLANNING POLICY EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANEL 21 October 2021

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Statement of Community Involvement for North Northamptonshire Council</b>	
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Simon Richardson - Interim Planning Policy Lead Manager</b> <a href="mailto:simon.richardson@northnorthants.gov.uk">simon.richardson@northnorthants.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Contributors/Checkers/Approvers</b>		
<b>North MO</b>		
<b>North S151</b>		
<b>Other Director/SME</b>		

### List of Appendices

#### **Appendix A – Draft Statement of Community Involvement**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

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- 1.1. To propose a draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) for consultation. It is a requirement for planning authorities to have in place an SCI which sets out the broad consultation parameters for development plans and significant planning applications.

##### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 This report informs Members about the Draft SCI attached at Appendix A, and what it addresses.
- 2.2 It is a statutory requirement for the Council as planning authority to have in place an adopted SCI. As a newly formed unitary council that is both a local planning authority and a minerals and waste planning authority there is therefore a requirement for a new single SCI for North Northamptonshire. The revised SCI does not have to be subject to public consultation however, it is regarded as good practice to do so, and it is therefore suggested a 6-week consultation be undertaken to allow for comment on the content.
- 2.3 The report explains that the draft SCI relates to the consultations that will be undertaken in relation to any development plans that the Council will prepare as well as for all planning applications that are submitted to it. It also sets out the advice and assistance that the Council will provide to communities in relation to Neighbourhood Plans.

### **3. Recommendations**

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- 3.1 It is recommended that the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel consider the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and, subject to any comments/observations on its content, endorse that the Draft SCI be agreed for public consultation.

Reason for Recommendation:

- 3.2 To ensure that the Council moves towards having an adopted SCI in place in line with government legislation.

### **4. Report Background**

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- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement under planning legislation for the Council as a planning authority to have an adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The purpose of the SCI is to set out what consultation will take place with the community on planning policy documents and planning applications. It sets out who the Council will consult with, when and how.
- 4.2 There are currently two SCIs covering North Northamptonshire. The first is the North Northamptonshire SCI (most recently adopted in 2019) prepared on behalf of the former local planning authorities of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough by the former Joint Planning and Delivery Unit and approved by the Joint Planning Committee and four authorities. The other is the Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement, most recently adopted in 2012 by the former Northamptonshire County Council and which covered the activities of the minerals and waste planning authority.
- 4.3 As a newly formed unitary council that is both a local planning authority and a minerals and waste planning authority there is therefore a requirement for a new single SCI for North Northamptonshire.
- 4.4 The existence of a joint single SCI covering four local planning authorities is unusual as SCIs normally only cover one planning authority area but reflects the previous joint working arrangements. Given much of the groundwork had already been undertaken, it is reasonable for the new SCI for the Council to basically be an update of the 2019 joint North Northamptonshire document with changes made by way of any updates and including any specific minerals and waste matters from the former Northamptonshire County Council SCI.

### **5. The SCI for North Northamptonshire**

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- 5.1 The proposed draft SCI for North Northamptonshire Council, proposed for consultation, is attached at Appendix A.
- 5.2 The draft SCI relates to any consultations to be undertaken for any development plans the Council prepares, as well as for all planning applications that are submitted to the Council. It sets out the advice and assistance that the Council will provide to communities in relation to Neighbourhood Plans and/or Neighbourhood Development Orders. The draft SCI gives some context to the development plan framework in North Northamptonshire, the plan preparation

process in general, and who will be consulted on emerging development plans, the periods for consultation and dealing with responses. In relation to development proposals and planning applications this gives information on what types of proposals/applications are covered by the SCI, publicising planning applications, how significant developments that are covered by the SCI are defined and dealing with the conclusions of engagement. Finally, the SCI gives information on its involvement in publicising neighbourhood plans and also as now required in SCIs, the advice and assistance that the Council will provide to communities in relation to Neighbourhood Plans.

5.3 The key changes from the current (2019) joint SCI for the Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough local planning authorities are:

- Text revisions to reflect the establishment of a wholly new authority and to delete some text that is less current than when the Joint North Northamptonshire SCI was originally prepared.
- The inclusion of minerals and waste matters.
- Re-ordering the structure so that the neighbourhood plans section will now be at the rear of the document.
- Deletion of the former appendix to the SCI which contained the local planning authority contact details as these are likely to change during the duration of the SCI.

5.4 Members of the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel are asked to consider the draft SCI, suggest any further amendments, and agree the draft SCI for consultation. This will entail notifying those on the Council's Planning Policy database of the consultation.

## **6. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **6.1 Resources and Financial**

6.1.1 There are no specific resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

### **6.2 Legal**

6.2.1 The SCI will when formally adopted inform consultations on development plans and significant planning applications across North Northamptonshire.

### **6.3 Risk**

6.3.1 There are no risks arising from the adoption of a new SCI. However, it is a statutory requirement that the Council has an up to date adopted SCI.

### **6.4 Consultation**

6.4.1 The draft SCI will be consulted upon by the Council for a six-week period. National Planning Practice Guidance on Plan Making (NPPG) does clarify that the revised SCI does not have to be subject to consultation, but it is good practice to do so. Following consultation, an analysis of representations will be prepared and a final SCI will be produced for consideration by this Executive Advisory Panel, and then provided to the Executive for adoption.

## **6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny**

6.5.1 Comments/observations on the content of the draft SCI will be made by Members of this Executive Advisory Panel and considered for inclusion in the draft SCI for consultation.

## **6.6 Climate Impact**

6.6.1 There are no climate impacts arising from the preparation, consultation and adoption of the SCI.

## **6.7 Community Impact**

6.7.1 There are no specific community impacts arising from the preparation, consultation and adoption of the SCI. Once adopted the SCI will set out how local communities will be notified in relation to consultations on development plans and planning applications.

## **7. Background Papers**

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7.1 None.