

Bolsover District Council

Planning Committee

15th October 2014

Update to the Statement of Community Involvement

Report of the Joint Assistant Director of Planning and Environmental Health
(Written by Planning Policy Manager)

Purpose of the Report

- To set out the need to update the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- To seek approval of the updated Statement of Community Involvement attached at Appendix A and authority to publish it on the Council's website.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a requirement for local planning authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement. The Statement sets out the steps the Council will take to encourage consultation in respect of the development of planning policy documents and planning applications, particularly in relation to significant proposals. Once adopted the Council has to follow the steps set out in the Statement of Community Involvement.
- 1.2 The Council's original Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in May 2006, following public consultation and independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate. By December 2012, there had been a number of changes to planning regulations and guidance which meant that references in the Statement of Community Involvement were out of date. Accordingly, the Statement of Community Involvement was revised and approved by members in December 2012. The revision also took account of the Council's 'Lean Project' which was being undertaken at that time.
- 1.3 The production of a single Local Plan means that the Council will need to set out a new timetable in the Local Development Scheme (LDS). This in turn means that references in the Statement of Community Involvement to the LDS and the production of documents will need to be updated. Factual changes and updates, for example the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Plan, have also been included in the update.
- 1.4 Whilst there is a statutory requirement to have a Statement of Community Involvement, and compliance with it is examined as part of Local Plan examinations, there is currently no prescribed process for its production. Whilst it is likely that significant changes to the SCI (for example proposing to significantly change the ways the Council consults, or stopping some type of consultation) would

necessitate a public consultation exercise; it is considered that the proposed changes to the SCI are limited in scope to updating factual information, and there is therefore no reason to consult on them.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The Statement of Community Involvement needs to be updated to reflect the changes to the Local Development Scheme. Carrying out a targeted update in the way outlined above ensures that the SCI is up to date for the start of preparing the new Local Plan whilst avoiding the need for the resource intensive process of a public consultation exercise.
- 2.2 Whilst the update reflects changes to the Local Development Scheme, the purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement, to encourage greater public involvement in planning remains unchanged.
- 2.3 The contents of this report were considered by the Local Plan Steering Group (LPSG) at its meeting on the 24th of September 2014, when it was resolved to recommend to Planning Committee that ***‘the updated Statement of Community Involvement, as attached at Appendix A, be adopted and published on the Council’s website.’***

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 Other Officers involved in the preparation of this report were: Principal Planner (Policy), Principal Planner, and Assistant Planner.
- 3.2 Members consulted during the preparation of the report: Members of the Local Plan Steering Group.
- 3.3 An Equality Impact Assessment will be required in advance of publishing a new Local Plan.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 An alternative option would be a review of the provisions in the Statement of Community Involvement. This has not been identified as being necessary at this time and whilst this could result in a more streamlined document it would not change the existing statutory requirements for consultation and would involve a public consultation exercise. This would also delay progress on the work programme.

5 Implications

Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1 None identified.

Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2 The Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement¹.

Human Resources Implications

- 5.3 The work has been accommodated in the work plan for the Planning Policy Team.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 **That Planning Committee adopt the updated Statement of Community Involvement, as attached at Appendix A, and authorise its publication on the Council's website.**

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	All
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	The SCI sets out the Council's commitment to encouraging greater public involvement in planning issues. As such it affects the following aims: SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning. STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Continually improving our organisation.

¹ Under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended

8 **Document Information**

Appendix No	Title	
A	Bolsover District Council Statement of Community Involvement Updated 2014	
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>		
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