

PLACES SCRUTINY PANEL

15 August 2013

RUTLAND LOCAL PLAN DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Report of the Operational Director for Places

STRATEGIC AIM:	Creating A Sustained Environment Building Our Infrastructure
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the Draft Statement of Community Involvement.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the contents of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement in Appendix A to this report is considered by the Places Scrutiny Panel and any comments be reported to Cabinet, as appropriate.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council is required, as part of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out how the Council intends to engage with the community and stakeholder through the planning process. This includes the preparation of Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents and procedures for consulting the public on planning applications.
- 3.2 The existing SCI was adopted under Regulations that have now been replaced by the different requirements set out in the 2012 Planning Regulations. The Localism Act 2011, National Planning Policy Framework, and Neighbourhood Development Plans have also come into force, therefore a review of the SCI adopted in June 2006 is considered necessary.
- 3.3 The Government no longer provides guidance on how to produce a SCI but the new regulations do set out the minimum requirements for community involvement in local plan preparation and planning authorities are able to decide how they will prepare their own SCI. The Council is legally obliged to comply with its Statement of Community Involvement, once it is adopted.

4. DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 4.1 The draft SCI is attached as Appendix A to this report. The document includes consultation procedures regarding both planning applications and local plan preparation and has been revised to incorporate changes to the Regulations and now refers to the Local Plan rather than the Local Development Framework.

- 4.2 The SCI has been re-structured since the previous 2006 SCI focusing on the key statutory consultation stages and different processes that will be used by the Council when determining planning applications and preparing local plan documents including Supplementary Planning Documents and the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 4.3 The document sets out the way the Council intends to consult and engage with consultees throughout the Local Plan process. The process has been reviewed since the previous 2006 SCI to ensure the methods of communications are relevant to the key stakeholders and local community groups. It utilises new methods of public engagement and consultation and more effective use of resources including web based and social media consultation to encourage participation wherever possible.
- 4.4 The Local Plan Members Working Group considered and supported the Draft SCI at its meeting on 2 July 2013.

5 THE NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Following consideration by the Places Scrutiny Panel, the SCI together with any comments raised will be considered by Cabinet on 3rd September 2013.
- 5.2 It is intended that, subject to Cabinet approval, the SCI will go out to public and stakeholder consultation for a six week period during September-November 2013. Copies of the document will also be placed on the Council's website, in the Council offices and in the public libraries.
- 5.3 Following public consultation, responses to the document will be assessed and any necessary changes made to the SCI, before a report is brought back to Members to consider the formal adoption of the document by the Council. Once adopted it will replace the Statement of Community Involvement adopted in 2006.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	Medium	There is a statutory requirement to prepare an SCI and the timely review of this document is necessary to take into account recent changes in national policy guidance and legislation.
Viability	Medium	A revised SCI will ensure the Council's approach to consultation on both local plans and planning applications is up to date and relevant, meeting necessary statutory requirements of the Council.
Finance	Low	There may be some financial costs involved in publicising the consultation document that will be met within existing mainstream budgets.
Profile	Medium	The draft SCI will be subject to public and stakeholder consultation and be published on the Council's website.
Equality and Diversity	Low	The screening assessment for the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed and showed positive or neutral impact on all groups in Rutland by ensuring that all parts of the community are involved in the planning process. A full EIA is not required.

Background Papers

Rutland Statement of Community
Involvement (June 2006)
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
Localism Act 2011
National Planning Policy Framework 2012
The Town and Country Planning (Local Development)
(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008
The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)
(England) Regulations 2012
Equality Impact Assessment (Screening report)
(July 2013)

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A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.