

## **READOPTION OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Cath Giel  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Mike Tichford  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** John Hughes

**Summary and Recommendation:** The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced many changes to the planning regime operating in England and Wales. The Council is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) as part of the new Planning system. The Statement of Community Involvement aims to set down how and when the Council will involve the local community in the planning process.

The SCI was formally adopted by the Council on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2007. Unfortunately the required Adoption Statement was not advertised straight away because staff were involved on other tasks. The Regulations allow for only a 3 months period following formal Adoption for any claim by an aggrieved person for Judicial Review. This period has now elapsed and to meet the Regulations the decision to adopt the SCI has to be reconfirmed. Accordingly Members are requested to reaffirm Adoption of the SCI.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 came into effect in September 2004 and replaced the Local Plan system with the Local Development Framework.
- 1.2 The Local Development Framework will consist of a series of documents known as Local Development Documents (LDDs).
- 1.3 The Council is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) as part of the Local Development Framework. The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement is to set out the Council's policy in relation to involving the community in the development and preparation of Local Development Documents and in the determination of planning applications.

### **2. PROCESS OF ADOPTION**

- 2.1 The Statement of Community Involvement has been subject to the required stages of consultation and amendment during its production As prescribed by the Act and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)

(England) Regulations 2004. Firstly a questionnaire was circulated to over 300 groups and organisations to find out how they would like to be consulted and which documents they would like to be involved in. The results from this initial consultation exercise were used to inform production of a draft SCI in September 2006 and circulated to the database of consultees for comments. The comments received were considered and the Submission Draft SCI was then produced. This was approved by the Council in March 2007 to go out to extensive consultation and for submission to government. The Council's Local Development Framework Working Party drafted some amendments to accommodate responses during this period which were sent to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration as part of the formal Examination. The Inspectorate incorporated most of these changes and added some of its own to what became the final version of the document which is the one adopted by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2007 (Min Ref C141)

### **3. DOCUMENTS FOR REFERENCE**

- 3.1 Copies of the relevant documents in full are available for reference in the Members' Room. An Executive Summary of the draft SCI which provides a basic explanation of the document's contents is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

### **4. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)**

- 4.1 The cost of production and adoption is estimated to be £1500 which can be accommodated within the approved budget for the Local Development Framework which is £150, 000 for 2007/08.

### **5. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 This is a statutory requirement which is key to the production of all the Planning Policy documents to be produced by the Council. Full coverage of these aspects appear in the Council's Local Development Scheme on the web-site.

### **6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN**

- 6.1 One of key aims in the Draft 5-year Corporate Plan is '*Creating opportunities for community involvement*'. The Statement of Community

Involvement is a key document of the Local Development Framework and helps to deliver on all aspects of the core objectives and 3.3.5 in particular.

**List of Appendices:** Copeland Borough Council Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement – Executive Summary

**List of Background Documents:**

- Copeland Borough Council Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement (available to view in the Members Room)
- Copeland Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement - Consultation Report (available to view in the Members Room)
- Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004
- Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks

**List of Consultees**

(consulted in the SCI production process):

Fergus McMorrow  
 Martin Jepson  
 Hilary Mitchell  
 John Hughes  
 Tony Pomfret  
 Accountancy Team  
 Corporate Communications  
 Corporate Policy Team

**CHECKLIST FOR KEY ISSUES**

Impact on Crime and Disorder	Will be covered by appropriate planning policy documents.
Impact on Sustainability	All policy documents are required to have Sustainability Appraisals and Strategic Environmental Assessment (Section 7 of SCI).
Impact on Rural Proofing	Consultation methods tailored to different communities including rural areas.
Health and Safety Implications	No direct issues.
Project and Risk Management	See 5.1 above.
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Whole essence of SCI is about inclusion and letting the individual have a voice.
Children and Young Persons Implications	Covered in paragraphs 8.7, 8.8 and 8.9 in SCI.
Human Rights Act Implications	Whole essence of SCI is about

	inclusion and letting the individual have a voice.
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Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision    YES