

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive

11 October 2018

TITLE:	Statement of Community Involvement – Approval for public consultation
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Tony Kemp – Executive Councillor for Tourism, Regeneration and Licensing
OFFICER:	Dai Larnner - Executive Director (Place)
WARDS INVOLVED:	All Wards outside Peak District National Park

Appendices Attached:

- **Appendix A – Statement of Community Involvement – draft of document proposed for public consultation**

1 Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To consider the Council's Statement of Community Involvement prior to public consultation.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 That the Executive approves the draft Statement of Community Involvement so far as enabling the commencement of a consultation exercise to inform a final version of the document to be considered later by Council.

3 Executive summary

- 3.1 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a statutory planning document which describes how the Council will engage with residents, businesses and other organisations in decision making on planning policy documents and planning applications. Its scope is that part of the High Peak that lies outside the Peak District National Park.

- 3.2 The Council's most recent Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in May 2006. There have been a number of changes to the planning system since this date. In addition, a number of new opportunities to engage with the public (such as social media) have arisen. For these reasons it has been considered appropriate to update the SCI, bringing it in line with current legislation and public engagement methods.
- 3.3 The next will step will be to subject the updated SCI, appended at Appendix A, to a six week period of public consultation in the autumn.
- 3.4 The report was considered at the Council's Economy and Growth Committee on 27 September 2018 which recommended that the use of mailshots be included in the consultation document. It was also suggested that members of the public may also contact members of the Development Control Committee with regard to their concerns but that committee members may not be able to respond until they have heard all of the evidence provided at Committee. It is proposed to bring a further report to the Economy and Growth Select Committee in February 2019 to inform members of the responses received to the consultation, and to consider a final version of the SCI for adoption.

4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The Statement of Community Involvement is a key document in the context of Local Plan preparation and the determination of planning applications. As such it will help to deliver the Council's corporate aims as follows:

Aim One: *To help create a safer and healthier environment for our residents to live and work* – measured through good quality social housing provision and improved health.

Aim Three: *To support economic development and regeneration* - measured through sustainable towns and rural communities and increased economic growth.

Aim Four: *To protect and improve the environment* – measured through high recycling rates, quality parks and open spaces, and clean streets.

5. **Options and Analysis**

- 5.1 There are two options:

Option 1 – Decline to approve a Statement of Community Involvement for consultation. Local planning authorities are required under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to produce a Statement of Community Involvement. **Not recommended.**

Option 2 – Approve a Statement of Community Involvement for consultation. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) describes how the Council will seek to

engage with residents, businesses and other organisations in decision making on planning policy documents and planning applications in the part of the High Peak outside of the Peak District National Park. **Recommended.**

6. **Implications**

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

No implications.

6.2 Workforce

No implications.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies. The Statement of Community Involvement set out an approach designed to ensure that all sections of the public, including local organisations and any "hard to reach" groups traditionally under-represented in the planning process, have the opportunity to be involved.

6.4 Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations for the Council relating to the recommendations of this report.

6.5 Legal

Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires local planning authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement. As a planning authority, the Council may, at any time, make a revision to a local development document. The involvement of the public in preparing planning documents and the consideration of planning applications must follow the approach set out in the Statement of Community Involvement. At this stage, the statement is in draft form to enable a public consultation exercise. The consultation responses should be considered ahead of a final version being presented for adoption by full council.

6.6 Sustainability

The Statement of Community Involvement is a key document in the context of Local Plan preparation and the determination of planning applications. As such it will help to deliver the Council's objectives in relation to sustainable development.

6.7 Internal and External Consultation

This report recommends that the SCI is subject to a six week period of public consultation.

6.8 Risk Assessment

Risks have been addressed in the body of the report.

Dai Larner
Executive Director of Place

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

Location

Contact details

High Peak Local
Plan: Statement of
Community
Involvement 2019

Buxton Town Hall

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7. Background and Detail

- 7.1 Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires local planning authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement. The document is required to explain how the authority will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and in determining planning applications.
- 7.2 High Peak Borough Council's SCI sets standards and methods that will be followed for engaging residents, local groups, stakeholders and statutory consultees in:
- The preparation of the plans and policies that set out what the borough requires and how it will change over a 15 to 20 year period; and
 - The determination of planning applications for new development.
- 7.3 The Council's most recent Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in May 2006. Since this date, there have been a number of changes to national planning legislation and guidance that impact on the requirements for community engagement including:
- Equalities Act 2010
 - Localism Act 2011
 - Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
 - Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017
 - Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017
 - National Planning Policy Framework and guidance
- 7.4 The existing High Peak SCI thus requires updating to bring it into line with the current legislative framework. In addition, updating the SCI provides an opportunity to review the contribution that can be made by newer methods of communication used by the Council such as Twitter and Facebook.
- 7.5 There are minimum requirements for consultation on planning policy documents set out in the Town and Country Planning Regulations which the

Council must adhere to. However the Council has consistently exceeded these requirements when producing key planning documents (such as the High Peak Local Plan) and it is intended to continue this approach, in order to further strengthen community involvement in planning.

7.6 The aim of the updated SCI is to:

- inform members of the public and all other interested parties in a clear fashion how they will be notified about our planning policy consultations and how they can give their views on planning applications;
- ensure the process of making comments is as straightforward as possible, both electronically and on paper;
- plan consultation carefully to ensure that the opportunity is given for all interested parties to participate in the process, whilst at the same time making the most effective use of Council resources.

7.7 The updated SCI is attached as Appendix A to this report. The document is structured as follows:

- Parts 1 and 2 provide an introduction.
- Part 3 provides key background information about how the planning system works, the planning policy documents produced by the Council and the preparation process for these documents. The section also covers other considerations the Council must take into account when preparing its planning policy documents, such as provisions made in the Localism Act 2011.
- Part 4 details methods of engagement to be used during consultation and includes tables setting out who will be consulted at each stage in plan preparation. This section also includes details as to what happens to comments received by the Council.
- Part 5 covers consultation in the context of the planning applications process.
- Part 6 focuses on how the Council will ensure equal opportunities in consultation by seeking to involve all sections of the community in the process, with details of the measures proposed to achieve this.
- Part 7 details the circumstances under which this SCI will be reviewed.

Next steps

7.8 The SCI will be subject to a six week period of public consultation this autumn.

7.9 It is then proposed to bring a further report to Economy and Growth Select Committee in February 2019, in order to inform members of responses received to the consultation, and to consider a final version of the SCI for adoption.