

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Executive

22 June 2023

TITLE:	Statement of Community Involvement – Adoption
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Godfrey Claff - Executive Councillor for Community Safety and Planning
CONTACT OFFICER:	Jennifer Robb - Trainee Planning Officer
WARDS INVOLVED:	All wards outside of the Peak District National Park

Appendices Attached –

Appendix A – Statement of Community Involvement.

Appendix B – Responses received to consultation with Officer recommendation on any consequential changes required.

Appendix C – Consultation Statement

- 1. Reason for the Report**
 - 1.1 To advise the Executive of the results of consultation on the Council's updated Statement of Community Involvement.
- 2. Recommendation**
 - 2.1 That the Executive notes the contents of the report.
 - 2.2 That the Executive approves the Statement of Community Involvement - such that a final version of the document can be considered for adoption by full 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 February 2019. As the High Peak Local Plan is being reviewed, it has been considered appropriate to review the SCI, bringing it in line with current legislation and public engagement methods.
- 3.3 A six week period of public consultation was undertaken on the updated draft SCI, between 19th January and 3rd March 2023. Eight responses were received. These responses are set out in Appendix B with officer responses. No late responses were received.
- 3.4 A summary of the responses received is provided in Appendix B. It is recommended that no amendments to the SCI are required before the document is considered 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 Two: *To support economic development and regeneration* - measured through sustainable towns and rural communities and increased economic growth.

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

5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 There are two options:
Option 1 – Decline to recommend a revised Statement of Community Involvement for adoption. 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 – Recommend any modifications/or not to the updated Statement of Community Involvement, consulted on January – March 2023, and the document's subsequent adoption by full Council. 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. All costs are met from within the existing budget.

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 a draft form that has been subject to a public consultation exercise. The consultation responses received are set out in this report, enabling a final version of the document to be 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

The SCI has been subject to a six week period of public consultation between 19th January and 3rd March 2023. This report sets out the responses received to the consultation with recommendations for consequential modifications to be made to the document.

6.8 Risk Assessment

Risks have been addressed in the body of the report.

7. **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 can 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 development.

7.3 The Council's existing Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in February 2019. 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. It also reflects how the council might engage in exceptional circumstances.

7.5 A draft updated SCI was approved for a six week period of public consultation between 19th January and 3rd March 2023. Letters and e-mails were sent to interested parties with notification of the consultation. The SCI was available to view or download from the Council's web-site and hard copies were placed in Borough libraries and Council offices. The consultation was promoted via the Council's web-site, Facebook page and Twitter account, and a press release was issued.

7.6 Eight responses were received to the consultation from four contributors. Details of these responses and associated officer comments are set out in the consultation statement.

7.7 The statutory bodies, Environment Agency, the Coal Authority, and Natural England supported the engagement (and confirmed contact details).

7.8 Derbyshire County Council provided a response to say they had no comments to make on the SCI.

8. **Next Steps**

8.1 Adoption of the SCI, will be considered by full Council.

8.1 An adoption statement will be published on the Council's website to set out when the SCI was adopted and where it can be viewed.

8.3 A consultation statement will also be published to set out the representations received and any amendments made to the SCI.