

# North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**ITEM 7(e)**  
Title: North Tyneside  
Statement of Community  
Involvement

**Portfolio(s):** Housing and Environment  
Community Engagement

**Cabinet Member(s):** Councillor John  
Harrison  
Councillor Carole  
Gambling

**Report from Directorate:** Business and Economic Development

**Report Author:** Paul Buie – Head of Business and Economic  
Development

**Wards affected:** All

## **PART 1**

### **1.1 Purpose:**

The purpose of the report is to:

- explain the background to the production of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1;
- give an overview of the contents of the SCI and where it sits within the planning process;
- outline the responses received to a recent six-week public consultation exercise, and propose how these are to be addressed in the SCI, attached at Appendix 2;
- recommend the SCI be approved and adopted as North Tyneside planning policy.

### **1.2 Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that Cabinet approve the content of the Statement of Community Involvement and adopt as North Tyneside planning policy.

### **1.3 Forward plan:**

28 days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the forward plan that was published on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

### **1.4 Council plan and policy framework**

#### **1.4.1 Council Strategic Plan**

The SCI is related to many aspects of the Council Strategic Plan 2012 -15, but in particular to:

**Priority 3: Supporting people to be healthy and independent and protecting the vulnerable.** As the SCI states, North Tyneside Council will work with local charities and organisations to ensure that we provide a range of ways people can get involved in the planning process. The SCI supports people throughout the planning process giving every individual the opportunity to have their input.

**Priority 6: Helping people to make a positive contribution.** The SCI supports and encourages community involvement with the overarching aim of enabling people to feel a sense of belonging to their community. The SCI upholds that more input from the public with regards to planning, will create more positive outcomes for the local community and its residents.

**Priority 7: Making change happen, improving customer services and facing up to financial challenges.** North Tyneside Council will interact with the public in a positive, more efficient way whilst also improving access to our services. Our customer services will be improved through wider consultation with the public through a range of different methods and public events. The Council will work in partnership with local charities and organisations in order to improve the overall delivery of our services for everyone in the community.

Policy Framework: The SCI does not itself form part of the Development Plan or any other document forming part of the Council's formal Policy Framework, and therefore can be adopted by resolution of Cabinet.

## 1.5 Information:

### **What is the Statement of Community Involvement?**

The Local Plan will replace the existing North Tyneside Unitary Development Plan. It will combine work already progressed on the Core Strategy and Area Actions Plan in order to move away from a number of separate documents and towards one singular document. The aim of this is to provide clarity to its readers whilst also avoiding un-necessary duplication of policies.

The purpose of the SCI is to set out the standards to be achieved by the Local Authority in relation to meeting its statutory obligations of involving the community in the planning process. This relates to;

- the preparation, alteration and continuing review of the Local Plan (and any supporting documents); and
- the consideration of planning applications on a day to day basis.

The SCI should provide a clear guide to how and when community involvement will be sought, who will be consulted and the range of methods to be adopted in engaging those groups and individuals.

### **Why review the 2010 Statement of Community Involvement?**

The current SCI must be reviewed to align it with recent changes to statutory regulations relating to the procedure of producing a Local Plan and with developments to consultation policy and practice. The revised SCI sets out the new procedures and processes for producing a Local Plan, which have changed since the adoption of the current SCI. The revised SCI is a more simplified document than its predecessor, clearly setting out how the people of North Tyneside can become involved in the Planning system. The revised SCI has undergone a complete restructure with some additional

chapters added such as 'Neighbourhood Planning' and has been re-written to ensure it is fully compliant with regulations.

Consultation was undertaken on the revised SCI between 8<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> August and the document amended where appropriate. Full details of consultation and responses are set out in appendix 2.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

### Option 1

Approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 1.2 of this Report.

### Option 2

Approve the revised Statement of Community Involvement 2013 but with modifications to the document.

### Option 3

Decline to approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 1.2 of this Report, and refer the content of the report to officers for further consideration.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

## **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The SCI 2010 needs to be revised for the reasons set out in paragraphs 1.5 of this report

Approval of the Statement of Community Involvement now will permit the carrying out of an important stage of the preparation of the North Tyneside Local Plan, and represent key step in producing an up to date Development Plan for the Borough.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Statement of Community Involvement

Appendix 2: Report on Consultation on the SCI 2013

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Jackie Palmer, Planning Manager (0191 643 6336)

Claire Dobinson-Booth, Senior Planning Officer (0191 643 6341)

Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager (0191 643 7038)

## **1.10 Background information:**

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and are available for inspection at the offices of the author:

- 1 Planning Act 1990
- 2 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Order Act 2004.
- 3 Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

- 4 Planning Act 2008
- 5 Planning Policy Statement 1: Creating Sustainable Communities
- 6 Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks.
- 7 The Localism Act 2011
- 8 National Planning Policy Framework 2012
- 9 Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

Staff costs and printing costs to produce the documents will be met from within existing budgets. The SCI will be accessible from the Council's website so printing costs are expected to be small (less than £100). The actions set out in the SCI can be met from existing budgets.

### **2.2 Legal**

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Local Planning Authorities must prepare a SCI as part of their Local Development Framework. The SCI needs as a minimum to comply with the consultation requirements set out in The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

External consultation with the general public has been carried out on the draft SCI for a 6-week period from the July 8<sup>th</sup> July to the 19<sup>th</sup> August. Emails and letters were sent to all Statutory Consultees, including Natural England and English Heritage, and all Consultees on the Local Development Framework database. Consultees were invited to view and comment online on the draft SCI using the commissioned consultation software. Copies of the draft SCI were made available in all the Libraries and in the reception area of the Council's main offices at Quadrant East. A press release appeared in the Chronicle and on the Council website inviting people to comment on the draft SCI. The responses arising from this consultation were taken into account in preparing the final SCI.

Cabinet Members were consulted on and approved the draft SCI for consultation in July 2013. As a result of this consultation reference to Area Forums was removed.

Planning Officers attended Informal Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> August, and two all-member briefings on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

### **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

Diversity and equality are at the heart of the Government's commitment to engage the community more effectively in planning matters. An inclusive approach to consultation and participation recognising the diversity of the community is built into the SCI. The SCI was subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (ref 732) in September 2009. The published SCI will include the updated alternative language strapline, including translations into the relevant languages outlining the purpose of the SCI.

## 2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications directly arising from this report.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

The SCI has no direct environmental and sustainability implications, but the processes for involving the community in decisions on policies and planning applications should improve the Borough's environment and help to create sustainable communities.

### PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager for Policy, Partnerships, Performance, and Communication