

Broads Local Plan
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
Report by Planning Policy Officer

Summary:	The SCI explains what the Broads Authority's policy is in respect of consulting with and involving people and organisations, who have an interest in matters including the development and management of the Broads, in the Local Plan process.
Recommendation:	It is recommended that Members endorse the Statement of Community Involvement and for a four week public consultation period.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is the Broads Authority's formal policy which seeks to identify how and when local communities and stakeholders will be involved in the preparation of the Broads Authority's Local Plan, it also sets out the community involvement in the consideration of planning applications and states how the community can inform the Management Plan for the Broads.
- 1.2 The Broads Authority's first SCI was adopted in 2006 and then revised in 2008. It has become necessary to amend this to accommodate recent changes in planning regulations. Additional amendments are also needed to make sure that the SCI reflects new policy documents to be produced in the future, and also to take advantage of the increase in social media e.g internet, emails, Facebook etc.
- 1.3 An SCI is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). Section 18 states:
- (1): *The local planning authority must prepare a statement of community involvement.*
 - (2): *The statement of community involvement is a statement of the authority's policy as to the involvement in the exercise of the authority's functions under sections 19, 26 and 28 of this Act and Part 3 of the principal Act of persons who appear to the authority to have an interest in matters relating to development in their area.*

- 1.4 The proposed SCI is available at the following link <http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/broads-authority/committees/planning-committee/planning-committee-10-october-2014>.

2 Contents of the SCI

- 2.1 The content of SCI is set out under various sections, as follows:

2.2 Involving the Community in Planning Policy

This sets out the Local Plan production process and shows the basic relationship between different documents related to planning. It describes what Duty to Co-operate means and identifies how the Authority will advertise consultations and states what different techniques it may use. In addition it identifies hard to engage groups and indicates how it will try to involve those groups. Finally, it clarifies what will be done with comments received and lists the organisations with whom the Authority will consult.

2.3 Involving the Community at the Planning Application Stage

This section emphasises the importance of pre-application discussions and advice. It sets out how the Authority will consult with the public on planning applications and explains what will be done with comments received. Finally, it sets out the arrangements for public speaking at Planning Committee.

2.4 Involving the Community in producing the Broads Management Plan

The Broads Plan is reviewed every five years and this section of the SCI sets out how consultation will be undertaken. It explains that a variety of engagement methods will be used and that there will be consistency with the approach for planning policy document consultations, with the same consultees engaged. Two rounds of consultation for 6-8 weeks are proposed.

2.5 Neighbourhood Planning

This section explains what Neighbourhood Planning is, describes the typical process in producing a Neighbourhood Plan and the Authority's involvement; it also explains how the Authority works with neighbouring councils of the development of Neighbourhood Plans.

2.6 Planning Help and Advice Available to the Community

This section signposts the community where to go to get help and advice on planning matters.

2.7 Complaints Procedure

This section sets out the complaints procedure at the Broads Authority.

3 Consultation

- 3.1 The Authority is not required to consult on the SCI, however some other Local Planning Authorities have done this and found it a useful exercise and improvements to the SCI have come about.

- 3.2 Accordingly it is proposed to have a 4 week consultation, commencing on 13 October to and concluding on 7 November 2014 at 4pm.
- 3.3 The comments will then be considered and appropriate changes made. If no changes result of a comment, reasons will be explained.
- 3.4 It is recommended that the SCI is adopted by Full Authority (as it also relates to production of the Broads Plan).

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 At various stages of document production it may be appropriate, for example, to produce leaflets or have open days. There will be a cost associated with venue hire and leaflet production, in addition to the staff time. This will fall within the budget for producing the Local Plan and the Broads Management Plan.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The updated SCI reflects new planning regulations, the new Local Development Scheme and new ways to engage with the community.
- 5.2 Whilst the BA is not required to consult on the SCI, inviting comments could help improve the SCI.

Background papers: None

Author: Natalie Beal
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Appendices: Appendix A: Broads Statement of Community Involvement. The SCI can be found here: <http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/broads-authority/committees/planning-committee/planning-committee-10-october-2014>.