SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

NOVEMBER 2015
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is the Statement of Community Involvement in Planning?

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all local planning authorities (LPAs) to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This document sets out how the Council will involve and ensure the community can influence the preparation, alteration and continuing review of all development plan documents and planning applications.

1.2 The term ‘community’ refers to residents, businesses, community and interest groups, landowners, developers, adjoining local authorities, government agencies and any other individuals, groups and organisations interested in the development and use of land in South Northamptonshire.

1.3 The SCI will explain how the Council will ensure there is genuine involvement in the planning process; including the preparation of the Local Plan Parts (2a and 2b), Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) other plan making documents and when dealing with planning applications. It will also enable the Council to demonstrate how it will meet the requirement of the planning regulations.

1.4 Why is a new Statement of Community Involvement required?

1.5 The existing SCI was adopted by the Council in 2006. Since then a number of changes to the planning system have produced new requirements and processes for producing local plans and for dealing with planning applications.

1.6 In addition, technological advances including the increased use and availability of electronic communication such as email and the internet have also changed the way public consultation is carried out. Electronic communication provides a way to disseminate large amounts of information, this is especially important for rural areas, where it can be difficult for residents to get to the market towns and Council offices. The Council is committed to make the most appropriate use of electronic communication when undertaking consultation, however reliance on electronic communication will not always be appropriate and we will still rely on site notices and letters where these are necessary to ensure effective communication.

2. PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 National Context

2.2 This SCI addresses a number of changes to the planning system, including the Duty to Co-operate with neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies when preparing plans and Neighbourhood Planning, both were introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

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1 Local Plan Part 2a – containing detailed planning policies for considering planning applications and non-strategic site allocations; including identifying village confines boundaries and Settlement hierarchies

2 Local Plan Part 2b – Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Show People Local Plan – A site specific planning policy document that will allocate and designate land for Gypsy and Travellers pitches and plots for travelling Show People
2.3 As part of these reforms, the government changed requirements for consultation in preparation of planning policy documents and the planning application process. The government's requirement for publicity and consultation in planning are significantly less prescriptive, therefore the Council has much greater flexibility in determining who, when and how to consult and publicise information.

2.4 The Localism Act (2011)

2.5 The Localism Act introduced a number of changes to national policy which apply to consultation on planning applications and the preparation of Local Plans. This includes:

- The Duty to Co-operate

The Localism Act 2011 (Section 110) introduced a “Duty to Co-operate”, whereby it is a requirement for the Council to engage with its partners, such as neighbouring authorities and other statutory bodies. The preparation and adoption of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy involved cooperation of partner LPAs by sharing resources, knowledge and best practice. The plan was also considered and adopted by a joint committee. The Council is committed to meeting this duty and will continue to do so, throughout the plan-making process. The Council’s “Duty to Co-operate” – Statement of Intent demonstrates how we intend to collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and statutory bodies.

- Neighbourhood planning

2.6 The Localism Act introduced a new tier of planning policy documents known as Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP). In South Northamptonshire, town and parish councils can take neighbourhood planning forward. Through preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, local communities can have a greater say in deciding how planned development is accommodated in their area. NDPs can allocate land for development, or include policies to guide development. These plans must be in conformity with the strategic policies in the Local Plan and have regard to national planning policy. Neighbourhood Plans are community led, therefore the process of community engagement and consultation is vital to ensure a robust and representative Neighbourhood Plan. It is for those preparing a Neighbourhood Plan to decide how best to consult during the preparation of the document, but they must comply with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations in place at the time.

2.7 National Planning Policy Framework 2012

2.8 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into effect in March 2012. It sets out the government’s vision for the planning system, including how plans should be prepared and how planning policies should be applied in managing development. Local Plan policies must comply with this national framework. The Government also publishes national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), which gives further guidance and advises on how local authorities are expected to prepare local planning documents and implement Government Policy. The NPPF highlights the importance of engagement with the community in plan-making and states that:

“Early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses is essential. A wide section of the community should be proactively engaged,
so that Local Plans, as far as possible, reflect a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities for the sustainable development of the area, including those contained in any neighbourhood plans that have been made” (Paragraph 155).

2.9 The NPPF promotes a plan-led system, and re-iterates the duty to co-operate on planning issues the cross administrative boundaries, particularly those related to the strategic priorities, including the homes and jobs needed in the area.

2.10 **Local Context**

2.11 In December 2014 the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1) was adopted. This strategic document covers the whole of West Northamptonshire which covers the areas of Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire and sets out the long term vision and objectives for the whole of the West Northamptonshire area for the plan period up to 2029, including strategic policies for steering and shaping development. The Core Strategy provides a strategic framework to guide the preparation of the South Northamptonshire Local Plans Part 2a and 2b which will provide the more detailed planning policies and site allocations across the District, required to implement the strategic vision of the Joint Core Strategy.

2.12 The South Northamptonshire Council development plan also comprises the saved policies of the South Northamptonshire Local Plan (1997). Several of the 1997 local plan policies have been superseded by the new policies in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1). The remainder are “saved” and will continue to apply in determining planning applications until they are replaced by equivalent policies in Local Plan part 2a.

2.13 Early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with the community is vital in producing plans that reflect the vision and aspirations of local communities. The new SCI explains when consultation will take place, how the consultation will happen and who will be consulted.

2.14 Within the District the planning system has two main parts to it:

- **Planning policy** – making plans to guide development

  The purpose of plan making is to set out how an area will develop over time and to provide a guide for future development. Development Plan Documents (DPD) will out the policies for development with the District.

- **Development Management** – making decisions on planning applications

  When making decisions on planning applications, regard must be made to the Council’s DPDs unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.
3. OUR APPROACH TO CONSULTATION

3.1 The Council will be drafting a Consultation Strategy which will set out the Council’s commitment to supporting and resourcing good consultation practices.

3.2 In general terms our approach to consultation is as follows:

- publicising, on the council’s web pages, which planning applications have been received, and when the closing date for comments is;
- publicising on the Council’s web pages, when plans are being prepared and, particularly, when there are time limited opportunities to comment;
- providing clear, succinct information on the web pages to help people to make informed comments;
- giving full consideration to all suggestions and comments made;
- Being open and transparent in our decision-making.

3.3 In addition when preparing new plans we will:

- use appropriate consultation methods which are meaningful and proportionate to the document in preparation, whilst aiming to encourage involvement from a broad range of respondents, including groups who seldom make comments;
- seek the views of interested parties as early as possible and sensible to enable them to influence the content and focus of the plan, and identify local issues and opportunities;
- encourage on-going involvement throughout the preparation of plans including commenting on the issues, the alternative approaches available, and the detailed wording of the proposed policies;
- make consultation documents as clear and concise as possible (minimising the use of jargon) without oversimplifying complex issues;
- provide feedback on how the ideas and comments received within the consultation period have influenced the content and shape of the plan.

The next two sections outline what documents the Council will consult, and when and how it will consult for both the plan making process and planning applications.

4. THE PLAN MAKING PROCESS

4.1 The Council prepares various types of documents that involve different plan making processes and various requirements for publicity and consultation. A list of the emerging and planned Development Plan Documents that the Council will be producing is included in the Council’s Local Development Scheme (LDS) (November 2015). This document can be viewed on the Council’s Planning Policy web pages (www.southnorthants.gov.uk/1128.htm).

4.2 The LDS outlines the programme and resources required for the completion and adoption of each relevant planning document and sets out when significant consultation stages are programmed. It is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as
amended by s.111 of the Localism Act (2011) that the Council prepares and maintains an LDS.

4.3 The diagram (Figure 1) below shows the plan making documents that the Council will consult on.

**What Plan making documents we will consult on.**

![Figure 1](image)

**Development Plan Documents (DPDs)**

Development plan documents are planning strategies that contain policies for the use and protection or development of land, usually including the allocation of land for development. They set out the key requirements that new development must comply with.

**Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)**

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) add further detail to the policies established in Development Plan Documents. They can be used to provide further guidance for development, but cannot contain or set down new policy.

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA)**

This is required for each Development Plan Document, and for some Supplementary Planning Documents. It looks at the environmental, social and economic effects of a plan to make sure that the plan promotes sustainable development.

**Neighbourhood Planning (NP)**

The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan is optional. However if produced the Local Planning Authority have a significant role in managing the formal stages of the preparation process.

- Applications for the designation of a neighbourhood area and for a neighbourhood forum
- A neighbourhood plan submitted by a neighbourhood forum in relation to a neighbourhood area.

**Other planning documents**

Community Infrastructure Levy – this is charge that allows local authorities to raise funds from most types of new development to fund infrastructure
4.4 When we will consult – Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Document preparation

4.5 Local plans are prepared in accordance with the Town and County (Local Planning) Regulations 2012. The regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to the preparation of local plans and supplementary planning documents; including consultation with interested persons and bodies and the documents which must be made available on each stage of the plan making process.

4.6 The process for preparing Development Plan Documents is slightly different to those for Supplementary planning guidance:

- Development Plan Documents – these must go through specific stages of community involvement before being submitted to a Government Inspector for examination and following receipt of the Inspector’s report the Council can decide whether to adopt the plan with the changes recommended by the Inspector or not to adopt the plan;

- Supplementary Planning documents – these will also be subject to public consultation (but no independent examination) and will be adopted by the Council itself.

4.7 The figure below sets out the key stages in the preparation of planning documents and the ticks represent the different stages required for both documents in the plan making process.

Figure 2

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<tr>
<th>DPD(^3)</th>
<th>Consultation process</th>
<th>SPD(^4)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regulation 18 ✓</td>
<td>Define scope of document Evidence gathering and on-going engagement</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation 19 ✓</td>
<td>Publication of draft document</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation 20 ✓</td>
<td>Consultation on draft document</td>
<td>Regulation 12 ✓</td>
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\(^3\) Town and County (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 Part 6

\(^4\) Town and County (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 Part 5
4.9 **How we will consult?**

During the preparation of plan making documents the Council will consult and involve others at various stages of plan making preparation.

The Council recognises that the community involvement process has the following distinct objectives:

**Informing** – This involves raising awareness about the subject, by providing relevant, balanced, clear and easily understood information, and ensuring that people are kept up to date.

**Consulting** – this means asking what people think and inviting comment on proposals and approaches

**Participating** - This entails a more interactive approach of encouraging people to put forward views, ideas and proposals for discussion

**Giving feedback** – This is the stage of the process where people can see how their involvement has informed decision making.

4.10 In the case of planning policy documents, there is a distinction between “formal stages” of plan production, as this is governed by the regulations (see figure 2); and on-going informal consultation and engagement with the community as part of considering the options and issues, where there is more freedom about how we engage.

4.11 There are a range of opportunities for public involvement at different stages of plan preparation for each type of document. Different methods of consultation will be used flexibly to suit different circumstances and the type of plan that is being prepared.

4.12 Anyone can request to be added to our consultation database in order to receive information about consultation documents. As it is not practical to write to everyone across the District, the Council will rely on our website, our quarterly newsletter and the local press to reach out to the general public.
4.13 Methods of engagement

The types and methods of engagement used will be proportionate and appropriate to the nature and subject matter of the document being prepared. Potential techniques that could be used include:

**Council publications:** The Council publishes a quarterly newsletter which is delivered to all households across the District. This newsletter will publicise the Local Plan process and key dates for consultation.

**Email/Letters:** The Council will email / send letters to Statutory and general bodies, relevant groups. Those who are on our consultation database who have requested to be consulted

**Internet and Social Media:** The Council will seek to publicise the commencement of all formal consultations on its website. Where possible and appropriate, the Council will raise awareness of consultations through social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

**Local Media:** At appropriate stages during the preparation of Local Plans and SPDs, the Council will prepare press releases to circulate to local newspapers and/or radio stations to raise awareness of consultations and to encourage community involvement.

**Presentations and Attendance of Meetings:** Where appropriate, and by arrangement, the Council may deliver presentations, hold question and answer sessions, or attend meetings of external groups and organisations, in order to discuss particular issues. Where appropriate, and by arrangement, the County Council may also meet with individuals.

**Public Exhibitions and Meetings:** Where appropriate, the Council may hold exhibitions, with staffed or unstaffed drop-in sessions, to help inform the community, or hold public meetings to allow people to debate particular issues. However, such meetings can be costly, both in terms of staff time, and logistical considerations such as hiring halls, and consequently such events are likely to be arranged for groups of communities, and reserved for issues that cannot effectively be dealt with in any other way.

**Surveys and questionnaire** – the Council may utilise these to canvas views on key issues, options, proposals and documents

**Town/Parish Councils and other existing community forums:** Where appropriate, the Council may utilise Town/Parish Council meetings, as well as other existing community forums or local liaison groups, to raise awareness of, and discuss issues arising from, proposed Local Plans. Other groups to be used may include:

Where possible, Town/Parish Councils will be given advance notice of forthcoming consultation periods, with a view to them disseminating this information to encourage the involvement of the wider community. Town/Parish Councils can provide useful local knowledge and input into key issues. The Council will send direct notification of all consultations to Town/Parish Councils within South Northamptonshire, to enable them to represent the views of their local residents.

**Workshops/Meetings:** Where appropriate, the Council will hold workshops or meetings with key stakeholders to discuss particular issues and key technical matters in depth.
4.14 Engagement processes

**Consultation Periods:** Where a formal consultation is carried out, this will be for a minimum of six weeks for Local Plans and four weeks for SPDs. Where a consultation falls within a holiday period, where possible, the consultation period will be extended to accommodate members of the public who may be away at these times. The Council will also endeavour, where possible to ensure that parish councils have adequate time to allow for discussion at a scheduled parish council meeting.

**Availability of Documents:** All consultation documents and supporting materials will be made available to view in electronic format on the Council’s website from the first to the last day of the consultation period. To enable members of the public without access to the internet to take part in consultations, this information may be viewed online at all libraries in South Northamptonshire during normal working hours.

Hard copies of all consultation documents will be made available for public inspection at the main offices of South Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Towcester; and all local libraries across the District to provide an opportunity to inspect documents in hardcopy. Copies of consultation documents can be sent to interested parties upon request, either in CD or paper format, however these may be subject to a fee to cover the costs associated with production, postage and packaging.

All documents will be produced in plain English. At different stages of the local planning process, the Council may produce summary leaflets to inform and stimulate debate and dialogue about key issues.

4.15 Targeted engagement

It is recognised that for some people it may be difficult to get involved in planning decisions for different kind of reasons. Where appropriate, we will tailor publicity and consultation methods to specially address the needs of a target group.

4.16 Resources

Community Involvement of the plan making process will be led by the Council’s Planning Policy Team but will also involve corporate support involving the Council’s communications team and the Council’s Consultation and Engagement Officer, as well as other areas of expertise.
5. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCESS

5.1 What we consult on?

Many people become involved in the planning system when an application for development is submitted that may have an effect on their property or area, and they want their views to be taken into account when the application is decided.

The Council’s Development Management Team is responsible for the processing of planning applications across the District. There are two distinct stages when the community can become involved:

- Pre-application consultation – carried out by the applicant / developer before they submit an application (if required)
- Consultation on the planning application – carried out by the Council once it has been submitted with the necessary information

5.2 The Council is required to undertake consultation and publicise planning applications, however this varies according to the type of application. Some proposals do not need an application for planning permission and require other types of consent (such as listed building consent); and not all proposals are subject to public consultation.

5.3 When we consult

There are various stages in the planning application process. These are set out in figure 3 below.

Figure 3
5.4 **Pre-application stage**

The Council encourages the use of its pre-application advice service for which charges are made. By using this service, applicants receive advice from planning officers which will assist in ensuring the development proposal complies with the Council's local planning policies and requirements. These discussions are undertaken in confidence.

No community consultation takes place as part of this process, however the views of relevant specialist consultees are sought and taken into account.

www.southnorthants.gov.uk/PlanningInformation.htm

5.5 The National Planning Policy Framework emphasises the importance of planning applicants carrying out involvement on their emerging proposals. Paragraph 66 states:

> ‘Applicants will be expected to work closely with those directly affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Proposals that can demonstrate this in developing the design of the new development should be looked on more favourably.’

a. The benefits of involvement are also made clear in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). It sets out how pre-application engagement improves the quality and likelihood of success of planning applications by:

- “working with interested parties at an early stage to identify, understand and seek to resolve issues associated with a proposed development;
- discussing the possible mitigation of the impact of a proposed development, including any planning obligations and conditions;
- identifying the information required to accompany an application, thus reducing the likelihood of delays in registering the submitted application”

We encourage those submitting proposals for larger schemes or schemes of a sensitive nature to undertake consultation with the local community and other stakeholders before submitting a planning application. This will enable local people to influence proposals at an early stage.

5.7 **Planning application stage**

There are minimum standards for consulting on planning applications that the Council must comply with; these are set out in the Town and County Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2010. Upon receipt of a planning application the local planning authority will undertake a period of formal consultation in accordance with legislative requirements. Consultation and publicity on planning applications have different purposes. The Council will ask some bodies (i.e. Highways Agency and Environmental Agency) to provide professional advice and to assess technical work, whilst other groups (such as Parish Councils and locally interested groups/individuals) are often able to provide local knowledge and want to give us their views on the likely effects of the development.
5.8 How we consult

The Council uses a number of methods to consult and publicise information about planning applications. The level of consultation carried out for planning applications will be proportionate to the type and scale of planning application being determined.

**Publicity** – the Council is required by law to give publicity to all planning application; the level of publicity will depend on the type of application; however publicity can range from inclusion on the online planning register, neighbour notification to site notices and notices in local newspapers.

- Neighbourhood notification by letter is the principle method of consultation on most planning applications. For most planning applications, letters are sent to all owners/occupiers of properties that immediately adjoin the boundary of the application site, where they can be identified. In addition the Council will notify more widely where an application is likely to have a wider impact.

- Site notices – for planning applications that have a wider impact, site notices will be displayed in a publicly accessible location near to the application site where it is easily visible to passers-by. The site notice will provide a description of the proposed development, where plans can be viewed, and how and by when to make comments.

**Website** – The Council publishes a wide range of information on planning applications on our website, including, applications form, submitted plans and drawings, reports setting out officer recommendations to approve or refuse planning permission. This information can be located via the “online planning applications register” at http://snc.planning-register.co.uk/.

**Weekly lists** – The Council publishes on its website a list of valid planning applications that have recently been received, decided and/or amended.

**Meetings/Telephone** – for general planning advice on minor matters relating to planning applications and householder development proposals, a telephone based Duty Planning Officer is available (mornings only) to answer queries and questions. If site specific information is required then the Council would encourage the use of its pre-application service.

**Press and media coverage** – The Council will place notices in the press to advertise planning applications in accordance with legislative requirements and invite comments on those proposals.

5.9 Appeals

If an application for planning permission is refused by the Council, or it is granted with conditions, an applicant can appeal against the Council's decision. The appeal will be decided by the Planning Inspectorate either through written representations, or by holding a hearing or a public inquiry. In some cases appeals are decided by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, this is usually because the development is large and/or controversial.
5.10 **What we do with the information received?**

The Council welcomes the views of everyone and will consider any comment that it receives in response to consultation, provided it relates to valid planning matters. As it is not practicable for the Council to individually respond to all comments received, a consultation report is produced, detailing the comments that have been received and explaining how the Council has dealt with the comments received and how they have affected the development of policy or decision making.

5.11 The Council in its response and decision making process has a duty to balance individual comments made against other comments received, existing evidence, legal requirements, other local and national policy, needs and interest.

6. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

6.1 The key publicity and consultation that informs the content of the Neighbourhood plan or order is carried out by Town or Parish Councils prior to submitting a plan or order proposal to the Council. The Council encourages those producing a Neighbourhood development plan to carry out consultation and publicity that is proportionate to the nature and subject of the plan or order. The Council has a duty to support communities making their neighbourhood plan. For example, it will organise the independent examination of the neighbourhood development plan, or neighbourhood development order. This is to check that the plan or order meets certain basic conditions. The Council is responsible for organising the neighbourhood planning referendum. The referendum ensures that the local community has the final say on whether a neighbourhood development plan, neighbourhood development order comes into force in their area.

6.2 There are key stages in developing a Neighbourhood development plan which require publicity and/or consultation:

- **Neighbourhood Designation area (regulation 5)** – A parish council or designated group start the process of preparing a NDP through an application to designate a neighbourhood area. This application is submitted to the Council who must publicise the application for a minimum of 6 weeks and then determine whether the proposed area is considered an appropriate neighbourhood area.

- **Plan preparation** - this is a community led stage with no statutory requirement for consultation, the method of consultation is to be determined by the parish council or neighbourhood forum.

- **Pre submission consultation and publicity (regulation 14)** – The town or parish council preparing the plan must publicly consult on the draft plan which brings it to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area. The group must also

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5 Town and Country Planning – The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012
comply with Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning regulations 2012 which sets out the consultation bodies they must consult with. Appendix 1(f) provides a list of these consultees.

**Plan submission to the Council and publicity (regulation 15 & 16)** – this stage is led by the Council. After receiving the plan proposal the Council must publicise the proposed NDP and associated documents on their website. This publicity runs for a minimum of 6 weeks. The Council must also notify any consultation bodies as set in Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (appendix 1 (f)).

**Examination stage (regulation 17 & 18)** - an examiner will be appointed to assess the Plan against basic conditions. Representations made through the ‘Plan Submission to Local Authority and Publicity’ stage will be submitted to the examiner.

**Referendum** – if the Council is satisfied that the NDP meet the legal requirements it will publish its decision along with details of where the decision statement and the examiners report can be inspected.

6.3 Upon a successful vote by the community to accept the NDP as a planning document for the area the Council will bring the document into legal force as an extant and active planning document. The Council will publicise the decision on its website as a minimum.

**7 WHO WE CONSULT WITH**

7.1 The Town and County Planning (Local Development) Regulations 2012 identify specific and General consultation bodies that the Council have to consult with on certain planning documents at certain stages of preparation. In addition we must consult with neighbouring authorities to ensure the Council produces an effective and positively prepared Local Plan part 2, this also ensure we fulfil our “Duty to Cooperate” requirements.

7.2 The Council aims to give all residents and stakeholders the opportunity to influence the content of the plans for future development across the District, and to give people affected by specific development proposals the chance to comment on individual planning applications. We will involve groups, organisations and people who may be directly or indirectly affected by plan making and planning decisions made across the South Northamptonshire. A full list of these specific consultation bodies is out in Appendix 1 (a – e).

**8 REVIEW AND MONITORING**

8.1 All planning documents the Council prepares including this Statement of Community Involvement are monitored. This is primarily completed through the annual monitoring report which uses a range of indicators and targets to evaluate the performance of policies and documents. An Annual monitoring report is published on the Council’s website.

8.2 There are circumstances that may lead to a review of the of SCI

- Changes in legislation, national policy or statutory procedures
- The end of the documents lifespan
Appendix 1

The following list of consultation bodies is based on the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

A) Specific consultation bodies – plan making

- The Coal Authority
- The Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- The Highways Agency
- Local Councils
- Adjoining Local Planning Authorities
- Electronic communication code systems operators
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Electricity providers
- Gas providers
- Sewerage Undertakers
- Water companies
- Homes and Communities Agency

B) General consultation bodies

- Older persons and youth groups
- Religious and faith based groups
- Ethnic and race based groups
- Local Business Groups
- Local Disability groups
- Voluntary groups and charities
- Local residents and tenant groups

C) Statutory consultees for planning applications

The following list of consultees are based on the development management procedure (England) Order 2015

- The Canal and River Trust
- Civil Aviation Authority -
- National Air Control Transport Services and operators of Officially Safeguarded Civil Aerodromes
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Health and Safety Executive
- Highways Agency
- Internal Drainage Board
- Natural England
- Rail Network Operators
- Sport England
- Theatres Trust
- Secretary of State
- National Amenity Societies, including
- The Council for British Archaeology
- Ancient Monuments Society
- Society for the Protection on Ancient Buildings
- Natural England
- Historic England

**D) Statutory consultees – Duty to Co-operate**

These are the bodies prescribed for the purposes of section 33A (1) (c) of the Act, that the LPA must “engage” with during the plan-making process.

- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Natural England
- The Civil Aviation Authority
- The Homes and Communities Agency
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- The Office of Rail Regulation
- The Highway Authority (both the Highways agency and Northamptonshire County Council)
- Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Local Nature Partnership

**E) Additional groups, Individuals and organisations**

Please note that this list is not exhaustive. The Council has a live database which can be amended at any time.

- Network rail
- Members/Councillors (district and county)
- Landowners and developers
- Emergency services
- MPs
- Wildlife and biodiversity organisations
- Sport and recreation groups
- Schools and colleges
- Gypsy and travellers and travelling showpeople
- Registered Providers
- Transport groups
- Environment and conservation groups
- National Trust
- Town and Parish Councils
- RSPB
F) Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning regulations 2012

- A local planning authority, county council or a parish council any part of whose areas is in or adjoins the area of the local planning authority
- The Coal Authority
- The Homes and Communities Agency
- Natural England
- The Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
- The Highways Agency
- Any person to whom the electronic communication code applies.
- Any person who owns or controls electronic communication apparatus
- A Primary Care Trust in any part of the neighbourhood area
- A person with a licence under the Electricity Act, in any part of the neighbourhood area
- A person with a licence under the Gas Act, in any part of the neighbourhood area
- A sewerage undertaker, in any part of the neighbourhood area
- A water undertaker, in any part of the neighbourhood area
- Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit all or any part of the neighbourhood area
- Bodies which represent the interest of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the neighbourhood area
- Bodies which represent the interest of different religious groups in the neighbourhood area
- Bodies which represent the interest of person carrying on business in the neighbourhood area
- Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the neighbourhood area.