

Note for Council – 20th July 2011

Agenda item: 10

Purpose of this note: To make members aware of changes to the Revised Statement of Community Involvement made by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and to inform members that the document has now been adopted by them.

Reasons for changes: As a joint policy document for both ourselves and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), the Revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is required to be adopted by both authorities (paragraph 5.3 of Cabinet Report 88/11). Following consideration of the document at the Lewes District Council (LDC) Cabinet, the SCI was considered by the SDNPA Planning Committee on 13th June.

The SDNPA Planning Committee suggested some minor amendments to the SCI (summarised in next section). The SCI, incorporating these amendments, was subsequently adopted by the SDNPA at their full authority meeting on 21st June.

The reason the changes were made were for clarity reasons, in terms of the relationship between LDC and the SDNPA, and they do not materially alter the content of the SCI.

The version of the SCI that was adopted by the SDNPA incorporated the change recommended by the LDC Cabinet, which added, in the 'Time limit for speakers' section (which appears at the top of page 28 in the document) - "The exception to this is when District Councillors wish to speak on an application within their Ward, in which case they can speak for up to five minutes."

Changes:

The changes that have been made by the SDNPA are seen in the table below and highlighted in **bold**:

Paragraph	Original Wording	Changed version
1.8 3 rd Sentence	"... the District Council will be providing Planning Services on behalf of the National Park Authority..."	"... the District Council are currently providing Planning Services on behalf of the National Park Authority..."
1.10	"This SCI does not relate to LDDs produced solely by the SDNPA nor does it cover significant applications determined by the SDNPA. The SDNPA will produce their own SCI in due course which covers their specific consultation arrangements."	"This SCI does not relate to LDDs produced solely by the SDNPA or to significant applications determined by the SDNPA. The SDNPA will produce their own SCI in due course which will cover their specific consultation arrangements for LDDs produced solely by the SDNPA and significant applications determined by the SDNPA. In the meantime, this SCI

Paragraph	Original Wording	Changed version
		<i>covers these applications within Lewes District.</i>
1.11	“This SCI relates to planning applications that are determined by Lewes District Council either where the application is for development in the area outside the National Park, or in cases where applications are determined on behalf of the SDNPA by Lewes District Council.”	“This SCI relates to planning applications that are determined by Lewes District Council either where the application is for development in the area outside the National Park, or in cases where applications are determined on behalf of the SDNPA by Lewes District Council, at least until the SDNPA has approved its own SCI. ”
3.30 1 st Sentence	“Under the terms of an agency agreement between Lewes District Council (LDC) and the South Downs National Park Authority, LDC will provide Planning Services for planning applications on land in Lewes District which falls within the South Downs National Park.	“Under the terms of an agency agreement between Lewes District Council (LDC) and the South Downs National Park Authority, Lewes District Council is currently providing Planning Services for planning applications on land in Lewes District which falls within the South Downs National Park.”
3.33 1 st Sentence	“If the SDNPA determine that any planning application may have a significant effect on the South Downs National Park it retains the authority to determine it itself.”	“If the SDNPA determine that any planning application may have a significant effect on the South Downs National Park, it has the authority to determine it itself.”

In light of the above changes, the SCI that Council is recommended to approve will need to incorporate the aforementioned changes.