

Statement of Community Involvement Influencing the Local Plan – SCI Leaflet 2 of 3

See SCI [Leaflet 1](#) for an Introduction to the Statement of Community Involvement

A new planning system

The Government wants to give local people a greater role in shaping their neighbourhoods, and the changes to the planning system set out in the [Localism Act 2011](#) and [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF, March 2012) give communities the opportunity to get more involved in the preparation of planning documents for their areas.

We want to involve you in taking forward the new planning system from the earliest stages. We are now reviewing our existing adopted [Local Development Framework \(LDF\)](#) in the form of preparing a new style Local Plan for South Tyneside.

South Tyneside Local Plan

The [Local Plan](#) will be the new development plan for South Tyneside. It will set out the spatial policies, guidance, land use designations and site allocations against which all planning applications and other development proposals in the borough will be assessed (see [Leaflet 3](#)).

It will provide the formal statutory framework for sustainable development and lay the foundations for regeneration and economic growth, whilst protecting our most valuable built and natural environmental assets.



The new planning documents

Our Local Plan will be made up of the following documents:

- **Local Plan development plan document (DPD)** – will bring together our LDF development plan documents, plus covering the loss of the former Regional Spatial Strategy and the Government's thinning out of national planning policy through the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF). This DPD will also provide the strategic context for any community-initiated [Neighbourhood Planning](#) (see overleaf).
- **International Advanced Manufacturing Park Area Action Plan (AAP)** – a joint development plan document by Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council in support of the Sunderland and South Tyneside City Deal proposal for a strategic employment site north of the Nissan car manufacturing plant.
- **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** – a tariff-based charging schedule requiring planning contributions from developers towards the part-funding of the provision and maintenance of necessary strategic and local infrastructure projects.
- **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)** are prepared to provide further detailed supporting guidance. Although they do not have the same weight as development plan documents they can still form a 'material consideration' in determining planning applications. They can be produced more quickly as they are not subject to an independent public examination, and we will ask you what you think of any draft SPDs at an early stage in the preparation of each document.

In preparing our new Local Plan we will also publish on our website the following:

- **Local Development Scheme (LDS)** – setting out what local development documents will be produced and the current timetable for their production.
- **Monitoring Reports** – setting out progress made in producing our local plan documents and the council's (and partners') performance in implementing adopted development plan policies and proposals.



Neighbourhood Plans

Local communities can now prepare plans for their local areas themselves if they wish to do so. Any community-initiated neighbourhood plans will form part of the statutory development plan for those areas of the borough, once they have passed through independent examination and a local community referendum.

The Local Planning Authority does not prepare Neighbourhood Plans, but the council does have a duty to provide advice and technical assistance to community groups engaged in [Neighbourhood Planning](#), particularly in relation to the initial designation of neighbourhood areas and neighbourhood forums, as well as the examination process and holding referendums.

Preparing the new planning documents

When will we involve you?

There are a number of key stages involved in the preparation of the documents for the new Local Plan. These stages are required by Government planning legislation and regulations and are designed to ensure that the process is as open and transparent as possible.

The diagrams illustrate the key stages in the production of Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents as well as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The arrows also show when you can get involved in the planning process – getting involved at the earliest stages of preparation will ensure your views have the most opportunity for being taken into account. DPDs and the CIL will be subject to independent examination, chaired by a Planning Inspector, when people will be able to speak if they have made a formal representation at the publication stage of consultation.

Sustainability Appraisal

As part of the plan preparation process, we will assess the social, environmental and economic impacts of each Development Plan Document and relevant Supplementary Planning Documents. The key purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to identify and enhance the positive effects whilst minimising any potentially adverse impacts of our planning policies. This process will also involve the assessment of any health and equality impacts. Where necessary, we will also carry out a **Habitat Regulations Assessment** of our emerging planning documents.

We will continue to consult the public and Government agencies on how we do these and how we can improve our planning documents in the light of their results and recommendations.

Publications and fees

At all stages of the preparation of our new Local Plan we will make copies of relevant documents available for reference at South Shields Town Hall and in our public libraries.

Figure 1: Key stages in preparing our Development Plan Documents (DPD)



Figure 2: Key stages in preparing our Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

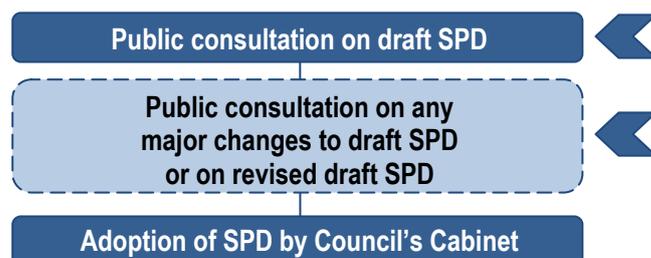
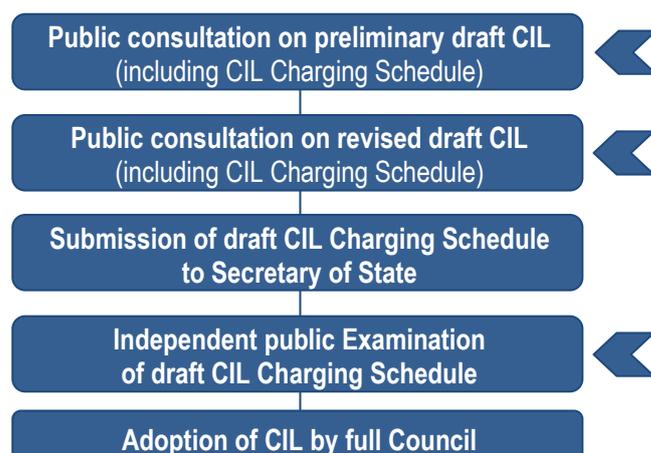


Figure 3: Key stages in preparing our Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)



All of our planning documents will be available to download from our website. Copies of consultation draft planning documents (in black-and-white) will be made available free of charge to South Tyneside residents and businesses. Charges will apply for colour printed copies and for some background papers. Please see our website for further information on [publications and fees](#).

How will we involve you?

Letters and e-mails

For environmental reasons, where you have provided us with an e-mail address we will generally use that means of communication rather than sending a letter in the post.

Press notices and statutory notices

Local newspaper notices are less 'personal' but they help to ensure that we communicate as widely as possible and in many cases we will need to use newspaper notices to meet our legal requirements.

Our website

The internet is a popular way of communicating planning issues to individuals and groups. A key advantage of this is that we can include far more information than we could within newspaper adverts for example.

We have specific planning pages on the council's website at <http://www.southtyneside.info/article/9061/Planning-policy-and-proposals>. We will ensure that these pages are regularly updated with all the latest information on development plan progress and we will provide opportunities for online consultation (for example, through online questionnaires and feedback forms).

Questionnaires

Questionnaires are a good way for people to give their views on planning issues, and we will start our initial [Key Issues and Options](#) consultation for the new Local Plan using questionnaires.

Discussion groups and meetings

Sometimes people like to have their say in face-to-face meetings. One-to-one meetings, public meetings and discussion focus groups can be arranged with Planning Officers, where it is appropriate. Smaller meetings will be particularly useful for getting the views of individuals or groups and they allow issues to be explored in more detail.

Workshops

Workshops can be used to help local communities to agree upon the way they want things to happen in their areas. They can be designed to be inclusive, interactive and fun and can encourage participation from people who might not like other methods of communication for example questionnaires. They can also be designed to engage young people in the planning process, and they may be particularly effective when dealing with specific sites where there are currently no preferred options for development.

Public exhibitions

Public exhibitions give people the chance to look at plans and proposals and to speak to planning professionals in an informal setting. They are effective in engaging people who want to give their views (or just ask questions) but do not want to do this in the setting of a formal public meeting.



Our timescales

We will make sure that our Local Plan is kept up to date to support planned development of housing and other priorities within the borough.

To keep our Local Plan on target this we will:

- aim to carry out all our planning consultations in line with agreed community involvement policies and the latest programme timetable set out in our [Local Development Scheme](#) (LDS); and
- update any strategic plans so that they accurately reflect the current programme for our Local Plan.

How will we respond to you?

We will maintain the following consistent approach to [service standards](#):

- **If you write to us** (by letter, fax, e-mail or sending in a response form) we will acknowledge receipt within five working days;
- **If you attend a public meeting / exhibition** we will ensure that Planning Officers are available to answer your questions (or let you know where further information is available). Where we use questionnaires or feedback forms at these public events we will publish the results on our website;
- **If you request a planning document** we will let you know where that document is available (e.g. from the council website) and whether there is any charge for a paper copy; and
- **If you attend a planning workshop** we will send you a summary of the feedback from workshop after the event.

We will prepare reports after each stage of consultation on Local Plan documents. We will make these available at the council offices at South Shields Town Hall and at libraries throughout the borough, as well as on our website at www.southtyneside.info/planning.



Monitoring and review

The new planning system is a learning curve and we will aim to maximise all opportunities to involve you. We will also set out a process for reviewing our procedures – either in light of changing levels of resources or to reflect improvements that can be made. We will continue to produce and publish [Monitoring Reports](#) to do this.

Planning Aid England

Planning Aid England is a voluntary organisation linked to the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), and through its network of volunteers, who are professionally Chartered Town Planners, it can provide independent and impartial advice and support for Neighbourhood Planning. Please contact Planning Aid England for further information at www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid and to read about examples of how support is currently being provided for frontrunner neighbourhood planning projects.

Appendix A: Consultees

The list below outlines the organisations and other bodies that we are legally required to consult and involve in preparing our planning documents, in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

'Specific' and 'Duty to Co-operate' consultation bodies include the following:

- neighbouring local planning authorities:
 - City of Sunderland Council
 - Gateshead Council
 - Newcastle City Council
 - North Tyneside Council
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Coal Authority
- Environment Agency
- Highways England (formerly Highways Agency)
- Historic England (formerly English Heritage, the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England)
- Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)
- Land of the Three Rivers Local Nature Partnership (LNP)
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- Natural England
- Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd.
- NHS South Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Commissioning Board (formerly Primary Care Trust)
- North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

- North East Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) (formerly Tyne & Wear ITA) and Nexus (Tyne & Wear Passenger Transport Executive)
 - Northern Electric Distribution Ltd.
 - Northern Gas Networks Ltd.
 - Northumbria Police (the local policing authority)
 - Northumbrian Water (the water and sewerage undertaker)
 - Office of Rail Regulation
- ...plus other relevant gas, electricity and electronic communications network infrastructure providers.

'General' consultation bodies include the following:

- voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the borough;
- bodies that represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the borough;
- bodies that represent the interests of different religious groups in the borough;
- bodies that represent the interests of disabled persons in the borough;
- bodies that represent the interests of businesses in the borough.

In addition to these above groups, we also seek to involve and consult a wide range of other interest groups and organisations, developers and consultants, as well as local residents and businesses. If you would like to be added onto our mailing database, or need to amend your existing contact details, please let us know.

If you know someone who would like this information in a different format contact the communications team on (0191) 424 7385