

Planning Policy
1st Floor
Notts County Council
County Hall
Loughborough Road
West Bridgford
NG2 7QP

Date: 14 December 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Review 2017

Proposal:

Nottinghamshire County Council has prepared a review of its SCI. The SCI sets out how the County Council will consult and involve communities in the carrying out of its planning functions. A review of the SCI is now taking place in the light of changes to legislation and planning guidance, progress on the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents, County Council restructuring and an increased emphasis on cost effectiveness.

I write on behalf of Chetwynd: The Toton and Chilwell Neighbourhood Forum ('The Forum'). The Forum was designated in March 2017 by Broxtowe Borough Council and the Forum's designated Area covers the two Borough wards of Toton & Chilwell Meadows and Chilwell West. The Forum comprises well over 500 registered members and is managed by a Steering Group of 12.

Context to these comments:

The Forum published the SCI review document on our website (www.cttcnf.org.uk) and informed our email list of members and friends on 25 Nov 2017 asking for comments on this Review. At the same time, we published a draft response to the Review and asked for comments on both the Review document and our response.

As at 8 Dec 2017 we have received a **total of 12 responses** from members endorsing the draft response. This document represents our views.

Comments on the Draft Review of the SCI:

1. The Forum contends that Neighbourhood Forums play an important role in the communities they represent. They were established under the Localism Act of 2011. The following extract is from the Government's website: [Neighbourhood Planning](#)

*Neighbourhood planning enables communities to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live and work and in supporting new development proposals. This is because unlike the parish, village or town plans that communities may have prepared, **a neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan and sits alongside the Local Plan prepared by the local***

planning authority. Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the Local Plan and the neighbourhood plan, and any other material considerations.

Neighbourhood planning provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop over the next 10, 15, 20 years in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people. They can put in place planning policies that will help deliver that vision or grant planning permission for the development they want to see.

To help deliver their vision communities that take a proactive approach by drawing up a neighbourhood plan or Order and secure the consent of local people in a referendum, will benefit from 25% of the revenues from the Community Infrastructure Levy arising from the development that takes place in their area.

Communities without a parish or town council will still benefit from this incentive. If there is no parish or town council the charging authority will retain the Levy receipts but should engage with the communities where development has taken place and agree with them how best to spend the neighbourhood funding.

[Key text highlighted in **red bold**]

2. The Localism Act devolves significant accountabilities to Neighbourhood Forums, specifically, to define neighbourhood planning policies and develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Nottinghamshire County Council need to reflect these accountabilities and the importance of the role of Neighbourhood Forums in the SCI.
3. Neighbourhood Forums need to be given the same status as parish / town councils in the SCI.
- 4. The Forum recommends:**
 - a. The SCI explicitly notes Neighbourhood Forums as consultees
 - b. Paragraphs with specific references to parish/town councils should also include a reference to Neighbourhood Forums.
Key paragraphs identified are: 3.4, 3.14 to 3.18, 5.11, 5.19. Other sections that need to reference Neighbourhood Forums are: Tables 2, 3(a), 3(b), & 3(c), and Annex 1
 - c. Notts County Council include Neighbourhood Forums in all relevant consultations and treated the same as parish / town councils

Yours faithfully

Graham R Heal

Graham Heal
Treasurer
Chetwynd: The Toton and Chilwell Neighbourhood Forum