

Statement of Community Involvement

Consultation Report

February 2024

Introduction

This consultation statement has been produced following the completion of a six-week consultation period on South Ribble Borough Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

The consultation started on the 2nd January 2024 and ended 13th February 2024. Responses were collected via the online survey platform, citizenspace, or in writing.

This document is divided into two sections. The first section displays the feedback received to the consultation and the Council's response. The second section highlights any amendments that have been made to the Statement following reflection on the comments received.

The Consultation

Consultations are an opportunity to hear from a wide range of people with varying interests. Therefore, we contacted via email and letter to all those on our consultation database, emailed various other stakeholders such as Councillors, Parish Councils and other community groups. The consultation survey was advertised on the Council's consultation page and an article on the Council's home page advertised the consultation.

Respondents were invited to make comments on any aspect of the Statement through an open-ended question. The SCI is a long document, in order to set out various regulations across development management and planning policy. Therefore, comments could be made on as little or as much of the document as the respondent felt necessary.

There were 27 respondents to the consultation. Of the 27 around 8 respondents submitted their representation by email and 19 respondents responded via citizenspace. All comments are available to view below.

Representations

Received during the consultation period of 2nd of January 2024 – 13th February 2024 on the draft SCI.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Natural England	No comments	
National Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please amend Highways Agency (Table 2 -Duty to Co-operate Bodies) and Highways England (sections 6.5) to read National Highways. • It may also be useful to provide a link within the pre application consultation element reference to the use of our National Highways webpage https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/planning-and-the-strategic-road-network-in-england/ that includes a link to our 2023 update of our publication, <i>Planning for the future: A guide to working with National Highways on planning matters</i>. • The new was document published in October 2023.https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/planning-and-the-strategic-road-network-in-england/ • Please also continue to consult us at PlanningNW@nationalhighways.co.uk. 	Comments are noted.
LCC Highways	No comments	
West Lancashire Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Table 3: Plan Submission and Examination (Reg 22 and 24) – you could also mention the Habitats Regulation Assessment • Section 3.3 - It would be beneficial to mention what factors may make a longer period more appropriate • Section 3.6 - It would be useful to give reference to your related Privacy Notice (https://www.southribble.gov.uk/article/2583/Privacy-Notice-Consultation) • On page 25, reference is made to the development plan for the Borough; the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and the Penwortham Neighbourhood Development Plan both need to be included in this list. • Due to the new shorter Planning Guarantee of 16 weeks for non-major applications, South Ribble Borough Council may wish to set out an 	Comments have been noted and amendments have been made where necessary

	<p>approach to accepting amended plans/further supporting evidence on applications that may require further consultation or that could lead to a delay to the decision leading to it being made after 16 weeks.</p>	
Member of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Central Lancashire Local Plan employment-led housing delivery forecasts should be amended. • The Greenbelt should be protected. • '20 minute' neighbourhoods are unrealistic. 	These matters fall outside the scope of the SCI.
Canal and River Trust	<p>Please refer to our correct name "Canal & River Trust". We welcome that our pre-application service has been referenced at paragraph 6.5.</p>	Name has been changed accordingly.
Member of the Public	<p>A neighbourhood plan should be drafted for Coup Green village.</p>	These matters fall outside the scope of the SCI.
Investment and Skills Team at South Ribble Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paragraph (5), page 25) – 'Opposition to business competition' - This could be included as we may receive complaints from businesses if similar businesses open in the area due to new developments. • We could offer a 'business consultation' like we have with town deal, this would give businesses the chance to have a relevant discussion with officers as their issues are less likely to be the same as residents in the area. • I also think a section/paragraph as to why Community involvement is important should be featured. 	<p>Comment noted and amendment made.</p> <p>Comments noted, but no amendments made, already been addressed in other sections.</p>
Historic England	No comments	
The Coal Authority	No comments	
The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside	<p>The inclusion of "The Wildlife Trust" in the list of "Duty to Co-operate Organisations" is welcome. Please be aware the status of Local Nature Recovery Partnerships still needs to be clarified by Government.</p>	Comments are noted. No changes to the SCI have been made, however.
Member of the Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The essence of the draft SCI is very good. • I often feel my views are not expressed via my Parish council. 	Parish councils are a valued consultation bodies. If residents unfortunately feel that their local parish is not representing their
Member of the Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I often feel my views are not expressed via my Parish council. 	

		views however, it is hoped that the SCI provides opportunities for residents to present their views directly.
Member of the Public	I appreciate being consulted. As a resident, it is pleasing to feel part of the process, rather than have changes forced upon us.	Comments noted.
Preston City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2 first bullet point - query whether the word progression in the first bullet point is an error • 1.4 Paragraph numbers quoted from the NPPF may have changed given the latest NPPF, consider mentioning that the SCI is in compliance with the NPPF at time of publication • 2.1 consultation database – consider mentioning the plan-making consultation database for the Central Lancashire Local Plan. Clarify the database is only used for plan-making consultations • Suggest change “E-mails will be sent to notify recipients“ to the more generic phrase • clarify the CLLP and SRBC databases are separate databases which each need to be separately contacted. • Page 9 - instead use the phrase 'Central Lancashire Local Plan' or new local plan. • Page 10 - consider referring to neighbourhood plans, consistent with the NPPF phrase. • Table 3 – ‘notifying relevant bodies and the community...’ – note ‘the community’ in this context means those registered on the plan-making consultation database, also posts on the council’s / CLLP website and social media pages will provide means of notification of the consultation. • Table 4: It may be useful to identify whether the consultation methods indicated as optional in table 4 are also subject to the availability. Consider whether the consultation statement should be amended to be required instead of optional for the preferred options stage. • Page 14 - explain what Integrated Assessment is and incorporates SA/SEA. Other documents – e.g. new CIL charging schedule as part of 	Comments noted and amendments have been made where suggested.

	<p>the new Local Plan and design codes, which may not necessarily be an SPD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.5 Could be less specific. • Suggest stating what consultation packs will contain is unnecessary. • 3.6 May want to refer back to GDPR or include a statement or link to info on how council hold and use information. • Section 5 – SCI could also refer to neighbourhood development orders. This section should also cover the stage of defining the Neighbourhood Area and seeking approval and consultation on that. • SRBC may wish to consider setting out what they can offer similar to the new The Birmingham councils have been cited as good examples 	<p>SRBC agree that this is a positive approach, however this is something that would have to be reviewed and updated on our website.</p>
Member of the Public	<p>It is hoped that this is not just a box ticking exercise.</p>	<p>The council will commit to the objectives and the measures set out within the SCI.</p>
Member of the Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document is too long, complex and includes too many acronyms. • The greenbelt should not be built upon. 	<p>The Council recognise that the SCI is a long document, but it must cover the wide variety of tasks. Residents are welcome to ask any questions and contact details are included within the SCI, a glossary is also provided.</p>
Member of the Public	<p>We have lost the local Post Office and other shops may follow suit. Empty shops are becoming takeaways and there are far too many barbers and hairdressers. We need a diversity of shops.</p>	<p>These matters fall outside the scope of the SCI.</p>
Member of the Public	<p>Looks reasonable.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
Electricity North West	<p>We are supportive of the draft Statement of Community Involvement, and its objective.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>
Member of the public	<p>A decision was made by the Joint Advisory Committee at their February 2023 meeting to omit the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan's Part 2 consultation. Why?</p>	<p>The reason for this decision is detailed within the report proposing amendment to the council's Local Development Scheme. It can be found on the Joint Advisory Committee webpages.</p>

Amendments

Schedule of changes made to the SCI following public consultation.

Additional or new text is shown underlined.

Deleted text is ~~struck through~~.

Page	Change(s) to text	Justification
Title	Autumn 2023 <u>March 2024</u>	To reflect the updated document
2	1.2. What are the aims of the Statement of Community Involvement? Provide access to up-to-date planning information and resources including updates on plan progression	To reflect both development management and planning policy.
3	1.3. What is the purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement? The latest version of the NPPF was published in September 2023. It is a framework that guides local plan preparation and is a material consideration when determining applications. This SCI complies with the NPPF at the time of publication. Paragraph 16c of the NPPF states “[Plans are to] be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees”. The NPPF also identifies advantages to community engagement and involvement. As paragraph 132 states “applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot”.	To refer to the current NPPF as changes have recently been made.
6	2.1. Consultation Database E-mails will be sent to notify recipients of <u>Stakeholders will be notified of consultation events</u> , publication, and main modifications to local plan documents.	To clarify that stakeholders can be notified in the method they requested.

6	<p>2.1. Consultation Database</p> <p><u>The Planning Policy team holds two consultation databases, one primarily for plan-making consultations for the Central Lancashire Local Plan and the other solely for South Ribble Planning Policy consultations and updates. Stakeholders must use the relevant contact details provided below to be added to each database. These databases are only used for plan-making consultations, and not development management consultations or wider Council consultations.</u></p>	To clarify that there are two databases, each need to be signed up to individually and each has a different purpose.
6	<p>2.2 Contacts and Resources</p> <p>Here there is also an interactive map available that is useful for a quick search of local plan designations along with a local plan policies map in PDF format.</p>	Due to IT issues, we are currently experiencing issues with our mapping systems.
7	<p>2.2 Contacts and Resources (Table 1)</p> <p>Current South Ribble Local Plan Emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan</p>	Avoid unnecessary language.
8	<p>2.3 Duty to Co-operate (Table 2)</p> <p>Highways Agency National Highways The Canal and River Trust <u>Canal & River Trust</u></p>	To reflect the name change of the organisation.
9	<p>3.1 Development Plan Documents (DPD)</p> <p>Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs)</p>	To remain in line with the NPPF.
10/11	<p>3.2 Local Plan (Table 3)</p> <p>Notifying relevant bodies and the community <u>(alongside other methods listed in table 4)</u> of the intention to produce a new DPD and invite comments.</p> <p>Accompanying the DPD will be a Sustainability Appraisal report, <u>Habitats Regulation Assessment</u>, policies map, consultation statement, representation details and any other appropriate documentation.</p>	<p>To clarify that other consultation methods are used.</p> <p>To reflect future sections within the statement.</p>

11	<p>3.3. Consultation Methods on Emerging DPDs</p> <p><u>Likewise, it may be beneficial to extend a consultation period, due to public holidays or weekends.</u></p> <p>The table below outlines the other methods that will be used to engage communities and interested parties, <u>many of which are subject to availability.</u></p>	<p>To clarify that the consultation periods are not limited to 6 weeks, an extension may be necessary.</p> <p>To clarify that methods labelled 'optional' are subject to resource availability.</p>
12	<p>3.3. Consultation Methods on Emerging DPDs (Table 4)</p> <p>[Plan Preparation & Preferred Options, consultation statement produced]</p> <p>Optional <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>To remain consistent.</p>
13	<p>3.4 Consultation on supporting Documents for the Local Plan</p> <p><i><u>Integrated Assessments incorporating Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</u></i></p> <p><u>The Scoping Report represents the first stage of the Integrated Assessment (IA) which is carried out alongside the plan production process. It will make recommendations to enhance potential positive outcomes and minimise negative impacts of the policies within the CLLP.</u></p>	<p>To clarify the purpose of an integrated assessment and that an SA and SEA are integrated within it.</p>
13	<p>3.4 Consultation on supporting Documents for the Local Plan <i>Other Documents</i></p> <p><u>Aside from DPDs, other documents could include a new CIL charging schedule as part of the new Local Plan and design codes.</u></p>	<p>To list other documents that have a different consultation status to SPDs.</p>

14	<p>3.5. Consultation Events and Platforms</p> <p>Consultation events are held both in the day and evening, to allow interested parties to attend at their convenience.</p>	There is not always availability to provide this or other arrangements may be suitable as an alternative.
14	<p>3.5. Consultation Events and Platforms</p> <p>These documents will also be taken to consultation events where the team will be on hand to answer any queries. These consultation packs would include proposal maps, evidence based assessments, and spatial proposals.</p>	Deemed unnecessary to list the contents of consultation packs.
16	<p>3.6. What will happen to your representation?</p> <p><u>South Ribble Borough Council's privacy notice can be found at https://www.southribble.gov.uk/article/2583/Privacy-Notice-Consultation</u></p>	Direct consultation responders to the relevant privacy notice.
18	<p>5. Neighbourhood Development Plans</p>	To remain in line with the NPPF and for consistency.
18	<p><u>A neighbourhood development order (NDO) is a means for the qualifying body to grant planning permission for particular forms of development within a specified area (the Neighbourhood Area). Granting planning permission for small-scale community or housing development, is a form of NDO, referred to as a community right to build order.</u></p>	To direct communities and residents other opportunities that they may feel is appropriate for their area.
18	<p><u>The qualifying body must propose a neighbourhood area to the LPA for designation. The boundary may replicate the parish or town council boundary, but this is not necessary. The choice of designation must be clearly justified.</u></p>	To clarify the process of designating a neighbourhood area.
20	<p>6.2. Development Management Consultations</p> <p><u>Information on how the Council holds and uses information in relation to Development Management (Planning and Enforcement) consultations can be found in the service specific privacy notice: https://www.southribble.gov.uk/article/1439/Planning-and-enforcement</u></p>	Direct consultation responders to the relevant privacy notice.

22	<p>6.5. How we will consult on pre-application enquiries</p> <p>However, many of these external agencies offer their own direct pre-application advice service e.g., Lancashire County Council as highway authority, National Highways Highways England, the Canal & River Trust and the Environment Agency.</p>	To reflect the name change of the organisation.
24	<p>The development plan is currently the Central Lancashire Core Strategy and the South Ribble Local Plan, <u>alongside the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and the Penwortham Neighbourhood Development Plan.</u></p>	To clarify that all listed documents are within the development plan.
25	<p>6.7. Planning Committee</p> <p>Planning Committee meetings are held in public. The Council allows public speaking at Planning Committee meetings, subject to a number of criteria. The procedure for debate at Planning Committee is available at https://www.southribble.gov.uk/article/1129/Planning-Committee</p> <p>Anyone interested in speaking at Planning Committee must register their request by noon two working days prior to the Committee meeting. The following people may address the Planning Committee:</p> <p>Up to five members of the public who wish to speak against an application will be allowed to do so. Each will have up to four minutes in which to state their case. Up to five members of the public who wish to speak in favour of an application will then be allowed to speak. Again, each will have up to four minutes in which to state their case.</p> <p>The applicant will then be invited to speak in support of their application. Only ward councillors not on the Planning Committee are permitted to make representations. Neighbouring ward councillors will also be allowed to make representations where an application will have a significant demonstrable impact on their ward.</p>	To keep the information provided, up to date through the lifetime of the SCI.