

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 21 SEPTEMBER 2006

**STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - SUBMISSION DRAFT
NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

Report by: David Illsley, Policy Advisor (Planning)

Summary:

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all planning authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement setting out how they intend to consult the public and other stakeholders on the preparation of planning policy documents and the consideration of planning applications.

Following an initial pre-production consultation exercise with the statutory consultees undertaken in May 2006, the Authority consulted the statutory consultees, relevant local authorities, town and parish councils on the Pre-Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement (approved by the Authority in May 2006 in paper NFNPA 91/06). This paper summarises the representations received during the consultation period and seeks approval for the (revised) Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement to be submitted to the Secretary of State.

Recommendation:

To approve the Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement (Annex 1) for submission to the Secretary of State and public consultation, as required by Regulation 28 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

Resources and Corporate Plan:

Not significant.

Corporate Plan Objective A4 – Develop spatial planning policies to support the delivery of the National Park's purposes and duties, working jointly with constituent and adjacent authorities.

Other major considerations:

None

Papers:

- NFNPA 131/06 – cover paper
- NFNPA 131/06 – Annex 1 - Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement (for approval)
- NFNPA 131/06 – Annex 2 - Schedule of Representations received to the Pre-Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement (June 2006)

Contact:

David Illsley
Tel: 01590 646672
Email: david.illsley@newforestnpa.gov.uk

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 21 SEPTEMBER 2006

**STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - SUBMISSION DRAFT
NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

Report by: David Illsley, Policy Advisor (Planning)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced the requirement for local planning authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), setting out how communities will be engaged in the preparation of planning policy documents and the consideration of planning applications.
- 1.2 Background information on the preparation of the National Park Authority's Statement of Community Involvement is provided in NFNPA 75/06, considered at the Authority meeting in March 2006. That paper set the context for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Community Involvement and outlined the requirements to consult certain bodies at the pre-production stage in accordance with Government guidance.

2 Pre-Production Consultation – Regulation 25

- 2.1 Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 states that before producing a draft Statement of Community Involvement, a local planning authority must consult the regional planning body, each relevant authority any part of whose area is in or adjoins the area of the local planning authority, and the Highways Agency.
- 2.2 The New Forest National Park Authority met this requirement through the pre-production consultation letter and questionnaire that was sent out to 76 recipients at the beginning of April 2006. This consultation exercise included all of the parish and town councils within and adjoining the New Forest National Park, as well as neighbouring local authorities and the regional planning bodies. A total of 27 responses were received during the four week consultation period. These comments were taken into account in the drafting of the Pre-Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement.

3 Statement of Community Involvement – Pre-Submission Draft

- 3.1 A Pre-Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement for the New Forest National Park was approved by the Authority in May 2006 (NFNPA 91/06). In line with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, this document was distributed to the statutory consultees and placed on the Authority's website for comment. The public consultation period lasted for six weeks in June and July 2006.
- 3.2 During this period representations were received from 30 different bodies, ranging from the Government Office for the South East at a regional level, to surrounding local planning authorities and five of the town and parish councils within the New Forest National Park. **Annex 2** sets out a schedule summarising the representations received, and the proposed responses.

4 Statement of Community Involvement – Submission Draft

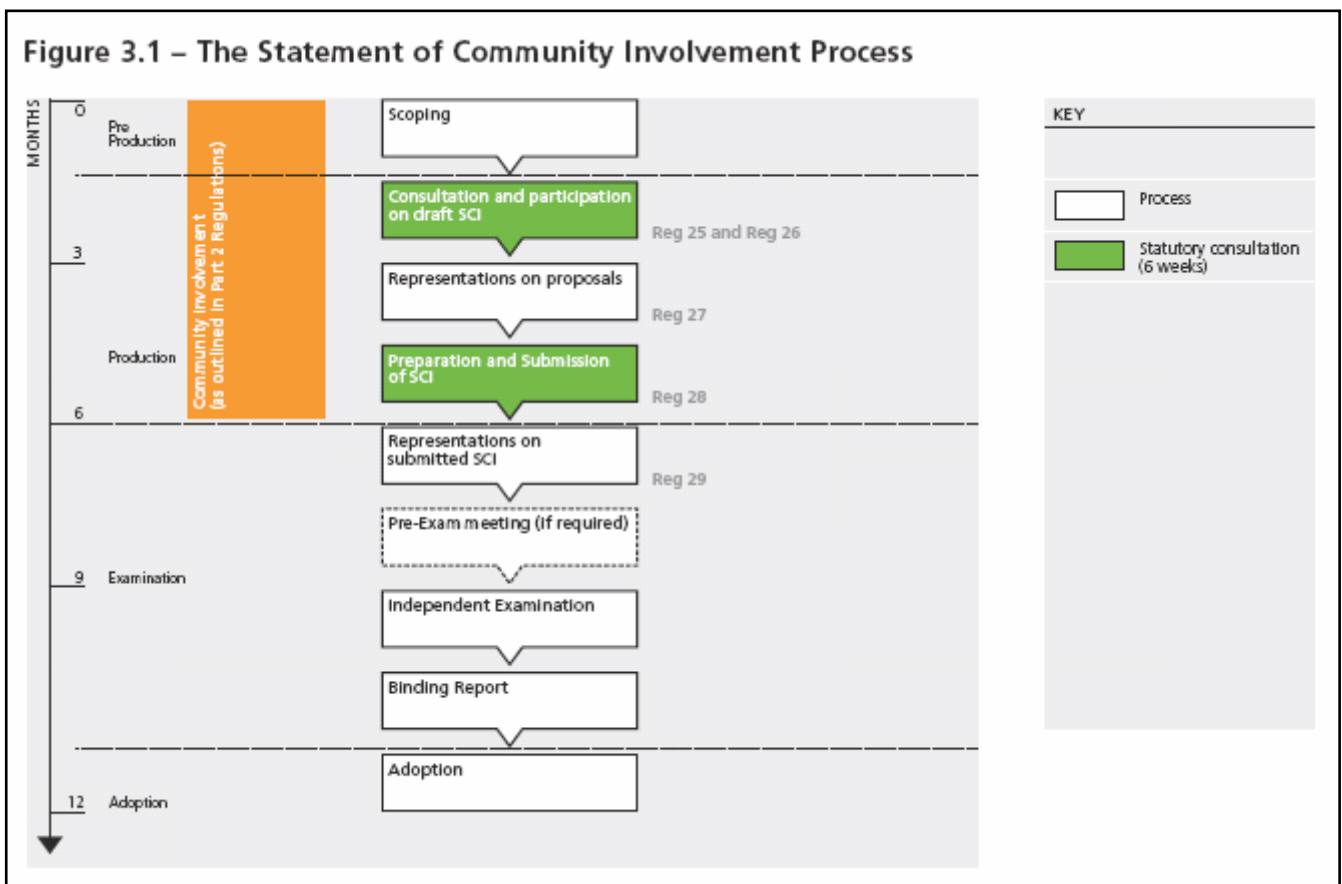
- 4.1 The responses received to the pre-submission draft document raised a number of issues. Many of the respondents supported the Authority's Statement of Community Involvement (considering it to be 'sound'). Others sought additional information to aid in the understanding of the Authority's consultation procedures for both planning policy documents and planning applications.
- 4.2 A number of amendments have been proposed in accordance with the comments received. The proposed changes are set out in the schedule of representations and in the tracked changes to the Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement (**Annex 1** to this paper).
- 4.3 A number of respondents were seeking a commitment from the Authority to place consultation documents at New Forest District Council offices. While the Authority will look into placing consultation documents in public libraries and District Council offices, the Authority has no control over whether they are then made accessible. To make this commitment in the Statement of Community Involvement, but to be unable to fulfil it, could render the spatial planning document 'unsound'.

5 The next stages

- 5.1 Paragraph 3.9 of Planning Policy Statement 12 (Local Development Frameworks) states that following consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement, the Authority should then prepare the Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement and submit it to independent examination. The Authority should publish a notice and invite representations within a specified period of six

weeks in accordance with Regulation 28 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

- 5.2 The figure below is taken from Planning Policy Statement 12 and sets out the processes involved before the Statement of Community Involvement can be adopted. Following the six week period of consultation (Regulation 28), the draft statement will be the subject of an independent examination. The purpose of the examination is to consider the soundness of the Statement of Community Involvement. The presumption will be that the Statement of Community Involvement is sound unless it is shown to be otherwise as a result of evidence considered at the examination. A hearing will only be necessary where one or more of those making representations wish to be heard.
- 5.3 After the examination, the inspector will produce a report with recommendations which will be binding upon the Authority. The Authority must incorporate the changes required by the inspector and then adopt the Statement of Community Involvement. The Authority must then comply with the requirements of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement when preparing local development documents and considering planning applications.



Recommendation:

To approve the Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement (Annex 1) for submission to the Secretary of State and public consultation, as required by Regulation 28 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.