Excellent news. Or will this operate like the agreement at Clickett Hill development which stated that Trinity College should provide soundproofing once tenants had been found (something that happened about five years ago now, yet has still not materialised)? Or along the lines of the expansion of the Port of Felixstowe which was tied to dualling of the Felixstowe/Ipswich rail track (something which seems inexplicably to have become the responsibility of UK taxpayers as opposed to the Chinese owners of the dock i.e. Hutchison Whampoa).

All I can imagine is that SCDC is either administered by a bunch of halfwits suffering memory loss, or someone there is getting financial rewards to forget to remind companies/landowners/developers of their responsibilities.

What use will any of this be unless it is actually APPLIED, instead of just STIPULATED. I look forward to seeing the benefits of the scheme in a reduced charge for my council tax. Until then, I'll treat it with the derision it deserves.

Summary:
Will this operate like the agreement at Clickett Hill development which stated that Trinity College should provide soundproofing once tenants had been found, yet has still not materialised? Or along the lines of the expansion of the Port of Felixstowe which was tied to dualling of the Felixstowe/Ipswich rail track.

All I can imagine is that SCDC is either administered by a bunch of halfwits suffering memory loss, or someone there is getting financial rewards to forget to remind companies/landowners/developers of their responsibilities.

What use will any of this be unless it is actually APPLIED, instead of just STIPULATED.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised SCI.

Anglian Water welcomes consultation on all relevant Local Plan documents and supplementary planning documents including Neighbourhood Plans and stress the importance of liaison in the early stages of the plans. We are keen to work with and support Suffolk Coastal in their growth aspirations.

We acknowledge Duty to Cooperate.

Although we are not statutory consultees with regard to Planning Applications we are keen to respond to all major (10+) planning applications and other applications where there may be concerns or issues relating to drainage.

Anglian Water’s contact details are:

Planningliaison@anglianwater.co.uk

Growth Planning & Equivalence Team
Anglian Water
Thorpe Wood House
Thorpe Wood
Peterborough
PE3 6WT

Tel: 01733 414690

You can also contact me directly as your Planning Liaison Manager.

Anglian Water provide a pre planning service that developers/applicants are encouraged to use in order to assess their development needs with regard to drainage, details can be found at:

http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/developers/planning/

Summary:

Anglian Water welcomes consultation on all relevant Local Plan documents and supplementary planning documents including Neighbourhood Plans and stress the importance of liaison in the early stages of the plans. We are keen to work with and support Suffolk Coastal in their growth aspirations.

We acknowledge Duty to Cooperate.

Although we are not statutory consultees with regard to Planning Applications we are keen to respond to all major (10+) planning applications and other applications where there may be concerns or issues relating to drainage.
Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Suffolk Coastal District Council Statement of Community Involvement

Thank you for inviting the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to comment on the above consultation. The MMO has reviewed the document and whilst we have no specific comments to make we would like to draw your attention to the remit of our organisation as you may wish to be aware of this in relation to the consultation.

As the marine planning authority for England the MMO is responsible for preparing marine plans for English inshore and offshore waters. At its landward extent, a marine plan will apply up to the mean high water springs mark, which includes the tidal extent of any rivers. As marine plan boundaries extend up to the level of the mean high water spring tides mark there will be an overlap with terrestrial plans which generally extend to the mean low water springs mark. In our duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure compatibility with existing development plans, which apply down to the low water mark, we are seeking to identify the 'marine relevance' of applicable plan policies.

On April 2 2014 the East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans were published, becoming a material consideration for the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and other public authorities with decision making functions. The East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans provide guidance for sustainable development in English waters, and cover the coast and seas from Flamborough Head to Felixstowe. Marine plans will inform and guide decision makers on development in marine and coastal areas. More information including the East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans document can be found at http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/areas/east_plans.htm.

If you have any questions or need any further information please just let me know. More information on the role of the MMO can be found on our website www.marinemanagement.org.uk.

Summary: The MMO has reviewed the document and whilst we have no specific comments to make we would like to draw your attention to the remit of our organisation. On April 2 2014 the East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans were published, becoming a material consideration for the Marine Management Organisation and other public authorities. The East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans provide guidance for sustainable development in English waters, and cover the coast and seas from Flamborough Head to Felixstowe. Marine plans will inform and guide decision makers on development in marine and coastal areas.

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Attachments:
MMO Response
Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement and Community Infrastructure Levy - Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule for Suffolk Coastal District

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 21 May 2014 which was received by Natural England on 21 May 2014.

Community Involvement
Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

We are supportive of the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the general community, community organisations and statutory bodies in local planning matters, both in terms of shaping policy and participating in the process of determining planning applications.

We regret we are unable to comment, in detail, on individual Statements of Community Involvement but information on the planning service we offer, including advice on how to consult us, can be found at:

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningdevelopment/default.aspx

Community Infrastructure Levy
Natural England has no specific comments to make on the draft CIL Charges, however would like to make the following general comments, which we hope are helpful.

Natural England is not a service provider, nor do we have detailed knowledge of infrastructure requirements of the area concerned. However, we note that the National Planning Policy Framework Para 114 states "Local planning authorities should set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure." We view CIL as playing an important role in delivering such a strategic approach.

As such we advise that the council gives careful consideration to how it intends to meet this aspect of the NPPF, and the role of the CIL in this. In the absence of a CIL approach to enhancing the natural environment, we would be concerned that the only enhancements to the natural environment would be ad hoc, and not deliver a strategic approach, and that as such the local plan may not be consistent with the NPPF.

Potential infrastructure requirements may include:

- Access to natural greenspace.
- Allotment provision.
- Infrastructure identified in the local Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- Infrastructure identified by any Local Nature Partnerships and or BAP projects.
- Infrastructure identified by any AONB management plans.
- Infrastructure identified by any Green infrastructure strategies.
- Other community aspirations or other green infrastructure projects (e.g. street tree planting).
- Infrastructure identified to deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Any infrastructure requirements needed to ensure that the Local Plan is Habitats Regulation Assessment compliant (further discussion with Natural England will be required should this be the case.)

Summary:
Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

We are supportive of the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the general community, community organisations and statutory bodies in local planning matters, both in terms of shaping policy and participating in the process of determining planning applications.

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http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningdevelopment/default.aspx
We welcome the reference to English Heritage as a statutory consultee under government regulations at Page 7 in the section on "Who the council will involve in the preparation of planning policy documents." There is a typo on this page, in the third paragraph, "know" should read "known."

We also welcome the accompanying reference to English Heritage in Appendix 1 as one of the "Specific Consultation Bodies."

The reference to English Heritage's status as a Duty to Co-operate stakeholder is also welcomed.

Aside from this, we do not wish to make any specific comments on the Statement of Community Involvement.

We look forward to continued consultation from the district council on relevant planning policy and planning application matters.

Summary:

We welcome the reference to English Heritage as a statutory consultee under government regulations at Page 7 in the section on "Who the council will involve in the preparation of planning policy documents." There is a typo on this page, in the third paragraph, "know" should read "known."

We also welcome the accompanying reference to English Heritage in Appendix 1 as one of the "Specific Consultation Bodies."

The reference to English Heritage's status as a Duty to Co-operate stakeholder is also welcomed.

Aside from this, we do not wish to make any specific comments on the Statement of Community Involvement.
Martlesham Parish Council has no specific comments on the content of the draft document but wishes to express its concern about how the District Council aims to achieve all that is presented in the statement and whether it has the resources to do so.
The Statement of Community Involvement Review

5420 Support
Introduction - What is the Statement of Community Involvement?
Introduction - What is the Statement of Community Involvement?

Respondent: Aldeburgh Town Council & Aldeburgh Society
(Ruth Proctor) [2736]  
Agent: N/A

Full Text: Aldeburgh Town Council particularly welcomes the emphasis placed on the importance of the views of local Councillors and residents in the planning process and is encouraged by the enhanced role placed on participation by the public in the planning process.

The Neighbourhood Plan is recognised as key, and its production will be well supported by Aldeburgh Town Council: upon its introduction it is recognised that the role of the Town Council will become more important in connection with planning.

Summary: Aldeburgh Town Council particularly welcomes the emphasis placed on the importance of the views of local Councillors and residents in the planning process and is encouraged by the enhanced role placed on participation by the public in the planning process.

The Neighbourhood Plan is recognised as key, and its production will be well supported by Aldeburgh Town Council: upon its introduction it is recognised that the role of the Town Council will become more important in connection with planning.

Change to Plan: N/A


Attachments:  
SCI and CIL feedback June 2014.pdf

Note: The composite reference number in the box at the top of the page is made up of the following information: Object/Support - Representation Number - Respondent Number - Plan Reference - Soundness Tests (if applicable).
The Statement of Community Involvement Review

Object

Who will the Council involve?  Who will the Council involve?

Respondent:  Lawson Planning Partnership (Mrs Aarti O'Leary)
Agent:  N/A

Full Text:

NHSE objects to the exclusion of any NHS body from the list of bodies to be consulted in the preparation of planning policy documents. Although it is noted that the list provided is not exhaustive, in recognition of its role as a statutory service provider, it is requested that NHS England is included on the list of "Other public bodies and infrastructure providers".

NHSE welcomes the Council's recommendation that applicants undertake pre-application consultation with the community in respect of proposed developments. In order to guide developers and applicants as to the organisations and groups that ought to be consulted, it is requested that a list of "statutory" consultees is included in the Statement of Community Involvement (as specified in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 (as amended)). In addition, it is requested that a list of suggested "other main consultees for planning applications" is added to the Statement of Community Involvement, and that NHSE is included within this list for the reasons outlined in the attached letter.

NHSE should be consulted on Class C3 residential developments comprising 50 or more dwellings and on all Class C2 residential, nursing and care home developments. Contact details for all consultations are provided in the attached letter.

Summary:

NHSE objects to the exclusion of any NHS body from the list of bodies to be consulted in the preparation of planning policy documents. Although it is noted that the list provided is not exhaustive, in recognition of its role as a statutory service provider, it is requested that NHS England is included on the list of "Other public bodies and infrastructure providers".

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Attachments:

- LPP.NHSE.SCDC.SCI.Reps.Form.09.06.14.pdf
- LPP.NHSE.SCDC.SCI.Reps.Ltr.09.06.14.pdf

Note: The composite reference number in the box at the top of the page is made up of the following information: Object/Support - Representation Number - Respondent Number - Plan Reference - Soundness Tests (if applicable).
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NHSE should be consulted on Class C3 residential developments comprising 50 or more dwellings and on all Class C2 residential, nursing and care home developments. Contact details for all consultations are provided in the attached letter.

Summary: NHSE welcomes the Council's recommendation that applicants undertake pre-application consultation with the community in respect of proposed developments. In order to guide developers and applicants as to the organisations and groups that ought to be consulted, it is requested that a list of 'statutory' consultees is included in the Statement of Community Involvement (as specified in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 (as amended). In addition, it is requested that a list of suggested 'other main consultees for planning applications' is added to the Statement of Community Involvement, and that NHSE is included within this list.

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NHSE welcomes the Council's recommendation that applicants undertake pre-application consultation with the community in respect of proposed developments. In order to guide developers and applicants as to the organisations and groups that ought to be consulted, it is requested that a list of 'statutory' consultees is included in the Statement of Community Involvement (as specified in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 (as amended)). In addition, it is requested that a list of suggested 'other main consultees for planning applications' is added to the Statement of Community Involvement, and that NHSE is included within this list for the reasons outlined in the attached letter.

NHSE should be consulted on Class C3 residential developments comprising 50 or more dwellings and on all Class C2 residential, nursing and care home developments. Contact details for all consultations are provided in the attached letter.

Summary:
NHSE should be consulted on Class C3 residential developments comprising 50 or more dwellings and on all Class C2 residential, nursing and care home developments.
The Statement of Community Involvement Review

5423  Object
Who will the Council involve?  Who will the Council involve?

Respondent:  Rosa Waller [499]  Agent:  N/A

Full Text:  Given the history of SCDC’s consultations with the local community over the Core Strategy it is difficult to find any comfort in this Statement of Community Involvement. Despite the attempts to make it a more user friendly document emphasising the benefits of community involvement it is of no value if the Council do not take any notice of the views expressed by the community. There is nothing here that indicates that the Council intend to pay any more attention to the views of the local community than it has done over the past few years during the Core Strategy consultations. As a resident who has responded regularly there has been little evidence that the Council has listened or taken on board the views expressed by this community.

Summary:  Given the history of SCDC’s consultations with the local community over the Core Strategy it is difficult to find any comfort in this Statement of Community Involvement. Despite the attempts to make it a more user friendly document emphasising the benefits of community involvement it is of no value if the Council do not take any notice of the views expressed by the community. There is nothing here that indicates that the Council intend to pay any more attention to the views of the local community than it has done over the past few years during the Core Strategy consultations.

Change to Plan

Not Specified  Not Specified  Not Specified  Not Specified  None

Attachments:  Rosa Waller response_Redacted.pdf

Note: The composite reference number in the box at the top of the page is made up of the following information:Object/Support - Representation Number - Respondent Number - Plan Reference - Soundness Tests (if applicable).
The Statement of Community Involvement Review

5419  
Comment
When will the Council involve you in Supplementary Planning Documents?  
When will the Council involve you in Supplementary Planning Documents?

Respondent: Melton Parish Council (Cllr Geoff Butterwick) [575]  
Agent: N/A

Full Text:
The statements that "Consultation exercises need to gather the views of a cross-section of the local population so as many people as possible are encouraged to get involved", "Local residents can offer unique knowledge and understanding of an area, including historic information for towns and villages and can be aware of important local issues" and "... Town and Parish Councils are key partners in the planning application and plan making processes. Cooperation with these "local" bodies also represents an important element in the Council's "partnership approach to community involvement" are very much welcomed. So too is the statement that "The role of Town and Parish Council has become increasingly important through the introduction of Neighbourhood Planning". However, improvement is needed in several places, viz:-

* The range of consultation methods set out on p9 is impressive, but it is noted that the document goes on to say "it is not always possible or appropriate to undertake consultations using all the methods listed. ... At any consultation stage the Council will comply with the minimum legal requirements for consultation but will seek to go beyond these requirements where time and resources allow." This suggests that anything above the legal minimum is seen as an optional, perhaps unaffordable, option. A more definite commitment than this is necessary.

* The statement on p10 that "the Council will always try to engage with the community at the earliest opportunity in the preparation of planning documents" should be self-evident. The six/eight-week period set out fails to take account of the fact that many parish councils meet on a two-monthly cycle and it is often not practicable for them to convene additional meetings in order to consider planning policy documents which may have a significant bearing on their communities. Where lengthy documents are concerned, even the best organised councils will need time to digest their content and local implications. For this reason, the twelve-week period set out in the Compact should be the norm for all plan development consultation.

* Pages 11-13 of the document read strangely, as if the past 8 years of development of the District Local Plan were yet to happen. Had the underlying approach outlined been adopted at the time, the process might have been both quicker and less confrontational.

* Going forward, what will be important to local communities is the development of Supplementary Planning Documents. Page 14 refers to Pre-Production and Evidence Gathering and commits the Council to "Engage relevant stakeholders and the public in deciding the level of detail to be included in the plan and to identify key issues that need to be addressed." This needs to include explicitly include town & parish councils in the evidence gathering phase (e.g. for Site Specific Allocations), as they have a level of local knowledge not held by the district council and of local community aspirations not necessarily shared by landowners or developers.

* On page 16, in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy, the document says that when gathering evidence of infrastructure needs, the Council will have "Focused consultation with infrastructure service providers, developers and agents". For the reasons outlined above, it is surely even more vital that local communities are invited to suggest what local infrastructure might be required.

* The parish council found this section (Section 3) to be most informative.

* We were intrigued by the innovative use of 'speech bubbles' as a consultation medium for the issues raised on page 22 and have attempted to use this (by way of Adobe 'sticky notes') in our attached response.

* We note that there is no mention of the current practice of restricting written consultation to occupiers only of properties immediately adjoining a development site, which is unnecessarily restrictive (e.g. people living immediately opposite a site might be more affected than those next-door). We draw particular attention to our 'sticky note' suggesting adoption of a wider interpretation of 'neighbours'.

* The list of 'General Consultation Bodies' on page 23 includes 'Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the District' amongst those which "must be consulted where the Council consider it appropriate." It is suggested that a more positive commitment should be made in respect of, for example, the Ramblers Association where a planning application affects a Public Right of Way (most walkers will not be immediate neighbours!) and sports clubs where an application is for development of a sports field.

* We found Appendix 2 listing Material and Non-material considerations to be very helpful, but question the statement that the latter "Cannot be taken into account". Surely they can be, but carrying less weight than Material Considerations? As indicated on page 22, this is not an exhaustive list, but merely examples of the more commonly quoted representations. It is important that respondents (and indeed members of Area Development Management Sub-Committees) are not given the impression that only these issues can be considered.

* We would question whether 'History of the applicant' is always an Non-Material consideration, as surely a history of failing to comply with conditions attached to previous planning consents is material to a decision whether the imposition of conditions would provide mitigation.

* As outlined above, the document scores highly on worthy aspirations, but is all but silent on what the council will do to take heed of the outcome of any public consultation. The evidence of this (and other) parish council's long involvement with development of the LDF Core Strategy suggests very little heed has been taken in the past. We urge the district council to take advantage of the opportunity presented by this draft SCI to deliver meaningful community engagement, evidenced by commitment to being willing to modify local policies and strategies in response to reasoned responses to consultation.

* Whilst understanding the necessity to qualify reference to a wide range of consultation methods by drawing attention to resource limitations, it is felt that the statement on page 8 that "the Council will endeavour to carry out consultation as appropriate to the nature of the plan/policy or proposal and the stages it involves" leaves the door wide open to reliance on a very limited range and scope of consultation. A commitment to minimum standards should be included.

* We note with concern that the district council's consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement took place over the same six-week period as that on the Community Infrastructure Levy. This has placed a significant burden on the very limited resources of those communities most affected by development pressures and could be construed as...
When will the Council involve you in Supplementary Planning Documents?  

Demonstrating a lack of deep commitment to the fine principles espoused by the draft SCI.

Summary: Statements relating to consultation exercises and cooperation with consultation bodies representing an important element in the Council’s approach to community involvement are very much welcomed. So too is the statement that “The role of Town and Parish Council has become increasingly important through the introduction of Neighbourhood Planning”. However, improvement is needed in several places including, but not limited to consultation methods and timescales, engagement with the community, and the inclusion of Town and Parish Councils in drafting Supplementary Planning Documents and CIL.

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Attachments:

Statement of Community Involvement - Representation Form Melton PC.pdf
Appendix to MPC Response to Statement of Community Involvement.pdf
I am writing to you as Chairman of the Felixstowe Society which, for many years, has taken a keen interest in local planning matters and regularly submits its views on planning applications.

We have read the consultation document "How to Get Involved in Local Planning" which we regard as a useful and progressive proposal for the way forward. We would, however, like to register one point concerning the way plans are accessed:-

In our opinion, the current digital (online) methods for accessing planning applications are not fit for purpose. The examination of plans nearly always involves setting several plans side by side on a table: for example "Proposed" vs "Existing". Ironically this is exactly the process illustrated in the small picture at the bottom of Page 21! Unfortunately, the production of legible plans, whether in the Town Hall or in the home, requires a large-sheet architectural printer which is not normally available in such places. Even plans printed up to A3 size are often illegible and this includes prints made by the Town Hall.

The statement on Page 21 that "All planning applications can be viewed online [by members of the public]" is false and misleading and, in our view, must be reconsidered urgently. In practice, the only way that plans can be viewed and examined properly is by visiting SCDC offices during working hours; this is not an acceptable alternative.

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Note: The composite reference number in the box at the top of the page is made up of the following information: Object/Support - Representation Number - Respondent Number - Plan Reference - Soundness Tests (if applicable).