

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Head of Planning Policy and Economic Regeneration

REPORT NO. PLA. 485

DATE: 7th March 2005

TITLE:	Local Development Framework – Statement of Community Involvement
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	Yes
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Planning, Affordable Housing Cllr Smith, Economic Portfolio Holder
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Planning, Conservation & Affordable Housing
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	Minor
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	Minor
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS 12) & Companion Guide

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is one of the documents that forms part of the new Local Development Framework (LDF). The SCI sets out how and when the Council intends to involve the community and what form that involvement will take.

1.2 The draft Statement of Community Involvement was sent out to Key Stakeholders for pre-consultation in January 2005 and a number of initial comments have been received. A presentation inviting comment and proposing involvement has also been given to the six Local Area Assemblies.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve that the draft Statement of Community Involvement, attached at Appendix 1 and summarised in this report, is printed and sent out for a 6 week period of consultation beginning in March. This consultation will form the pre-submission stage in the new framework process.

2.2 Cabinet is recommended to delegate approval of a questionnaire leaflet summarising the draft SCI to be sent out as part of the public consultation, to the Economic Portfolio Holder.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out the standards which the local authority intend to achieve in relation to engaging the community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of all Local Development Documents and for all planning applications. The core aims of the document are as follows:

- Raise awareness locally of planning issues, particularly the development of policies in the Local Development Framework
- Apply good consultation practice and partnership working.
- Ensure that all the people who want or need information or to be involved can be, whatever their circumstances.
- Open channels for two way dialogue with the community
- Respond actively to regional and national policy.
- Maximise the potential of electronic communications

3.2 Consultation mechanisms will include:

- Newspaper articles, press releases, advertisements, radio announcements and the councils newsletter
- Seminar/forum for invitees from press, local groups etc
- Mobile Public exhibitions and / or workshops
- Using existing networks and community groups and parish councils
- Use of Local Area Assemblies and YELLS (once established)
- Proactive use of the Web site with easy links to other sites
- Working in conjunction with the Community Strategy partners

3.3 The key groups for consultation are; the general public, District Councillors, the Regional Assembly, Neighbouring councils and the County Council, Parish Councils, Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), Businesses, Developers/Agents, Statutory bodies and groups, Interested parties and local groups and the Media.

3.4 The Local development Scheme (LDS) is the timetable for the preparation of all LDF documents. Cabinet approved the Draft LDS on the 24th November 2004 and submitted it to GOEM. As Cabinet is aware GOEM have not approved the LDS. The necessary changes to the LDS required by GOEM are to be treated as a non key decision report to cabinet.

3.5 Comments received on the draft SCI document will be used to inform the preparation of the councils final version of the SCI. This version will be prepared for submission to the Secretary of State and made available for public comment in October and November 2005. Examination of the SCI would then be expected in January 2006, with adoption following receipt of the Inspectors binding report in March 2006. As such the SCI will be the first document in the LDF to be adopted.

3.6 Once the SCI is adopted all LDD's and planning applications must be subject to the appropriate community involvement and consultation set out in the Adopted SCI

4. CONTACT OFFICER

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