

Report to COUNCIL

Statement of Community Involvement 2019

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing

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20 March 2019

Reason for Decision

To adopt the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out how the council will involve the community in the preparation and the revision of the Local Plan and the consideration of planning applications.

Recommendations

To adopt the SCI and make it available to view alongside the schedule of comments and the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA).

Statement of Community Involvement

1 Background

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Oldham Council first adopted its SCI in April 2007. It identified how the council would involve the community in the preparation and revision of the Local Plan and the consideration of planning applications.
- 1.2 It was then reviewed in 2010 and 2016 to take account of changes to national planning guidance, legislation and to reflect that the ten Greater Manchester authorities agreed to produce a joint Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) in 2015. The GMSF will provide the overarching framework to strategically manage sustainable growth and development across the conurbation over the next twenty years or so.
- 1.3 Since the SCI was reviewed and adopted in 2016, the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 and changes to NPPF and its guidance have been published. These require councils to set out their policies for giving advice or assistance to neighbourhood planning groups and their policies for involving communities and other interested parties in the preliminary stages of plan making. It was also felt that the SCI needed refreshing as we progress the GMSF and the Local Plan review.
- 1.4 The SCI outlines the techniques that may be used to engage the community at the various stages of preparation of DPDs, Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs), Supplementary Planning Documents and Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment. It also outlines how the community will be consulted on planning applications.
- 1.5 In August 2018 approval was given to carry out public consultation on the draft SCI for a period of six weeks. Consultation took place between September and October 2018.
- 1.6 There were very few comments received on the SCI (five in total), probably due to the nature of the document. Two of the respondents' confirmed that they had no specific comments to make. The other three respondents requested:
- minor changes to the text to make clear that Parish Councils are separate from the District Executives;
 - that any comments made specifically on Shaw and Crompton as part of the SCI exercise are sent to Shaw Parish Council (no specific comments were made); and
 - additional text to make clear the steps that should be taken to complain about the consultation procedures if it is felt that they are not met (text has been added to sections 3 and 8).
- 1.7 This decision links to the Corporate Plan as the SCI seeks to promote working with a resident focus through encouraging residents and other stakeholders to be engaged in the planning process. The SCI sets out what methods we will use to engage with people (#ourbit), how people can comment and get involved in the planning process (#yourbit) and the result is a Local Plan / planning decisions that have been influenced together (#result).

2 Current Position

2.1 The SCI has now been updated to reflect the above comments. It has also been updated to reflect that the National Planning Policy Framework has been updated, reflect the updated Oldham Plan 2017-22 and to make clear that the consultation techniques outlined in Table 1 relate to Local Plan documents – not necessarily evidence base documents.

2.2 The EqIA has also been updated.

2.2 The SCI (Appendix 1) now needs to be adopted at full council as it is a local development document. This needs to be made available on the council's website and at public deposit points alongside the schedule of comments made during the consultation period and the council's response to these (Appendix 2) and the updated EqIA (Appendix 3).

3 **Options/Alternatives**

3.1 Option 1 – Adopt the SCI and make it available to view alongside the Schedule of Comments and the EqIA. The advantage of this option is that it will provide certainty to residents, developers and other key groups and organisations as to the consultation methods the council will use. In addition it will also ensure that planning consultations are carried out in accordance with the most up to date legislation and guidance. There are no disadvantages to this option.

3.2 Option 2 – Not to adopt the SCI and make it available to view alongside the Schedule of Comments and EqIA. There are no advantages to this option. The disadvantages will be that the council will have to rely on an outdated SCI which does not reflect the latest legislation, national planning guidance and the council's Corporate Plan and the Oldham Plan.

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 Option 1 – Adopt the SCI and make it available to view alongside the Schedule of Comments and the EqIA. The advantages of this option is that it will provide certainty to residents, developers and other key groups and organisations as to the consultation methods the council will use. In addition it will also ensure that planning consultations are carried out in accordance with the most up to date legislation and guidance. There are no disadvantages to this option.

5 **Consultation**

5.1 The council consulted on the draft SCI from 13 September to 25 October 2018. The comments received and the council's response to those comments are available to view in Appendix 2.

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 Adopting the SCI in line with Regulation 35 will involve making the documents available on the council's website. In addition we will make the SCI and supporting documents available at public libraries and the planning reception at Access Oldham. Therefore the decision will result in no major financial implications. The service will incur small costs for publication and writing out to people on the Local Plan mailing list but is not expected to be more than £150. This will be funded from the Development Control & Planning cost centre 23700 K108. (Sophie Eade / Sadrul Alam)

7 **Legal Services Comments**

7.1 The SCI is a local development document. Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 deals with the adoption of local development documents and it states at section 23(5) that a document is adopted for the purposes of the section if it is adopted by resolution of the authority i.e. by full Council. (A Evans)

8. **Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 The draft SCI links to the Corporate Plan and co-operative agenda as it seeks to promote working with a resident focus through encouraging residents and other stakeholders to be engaged in the planning process. The SCI sets out what methods we will use to engage with people (#ourbit), how people can comment and get involved in the planning process (#yourbit) and the result is a Local Plan / planning decisions that have been influenced together (#result).

9 **Human Resources Comments**

9.1 N/A.

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 N/A (Mark)

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 None

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 None.

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 N/A

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 The Local Plan is a land use plan and may have environmental impacts, but the SCI, as the document which will set out how the council will involve the community in planning, has no implications.

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 The SCI vision is that “through a co-operative approach we will enable, empower and encourage all residents and stakeholders of the borough to actively participate in the planning process to help achieve our corporate outcome of engaging and resilient communities”. This can only have a positive effect on all residents and stakeholders.

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 Yes

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 No

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 N/A

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

Name of File: Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2018
Records held in Strategic Planning, Room 310, Level 3, Civic Centre
Officer Name: Georgina Brownridge
Contact No: 1670

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendix 1: Statement of Community Involvement 2019
Appendix 2: Schedule of Comments made during the consultation period and the council's response to these
Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment