

Report to COUNCIL

Adoption of Statement of Community Involvement – Update

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport

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Reason for Decision

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

Executive Summary

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities prepare a SCI. The SCI forms a key part of the Local Plan. It sets out how the council will involve the community in the preparation and revision of the Local Plan documents and the consideration of planning applications.

Oldham Council first adopted its SCI in April 2007. It was then reviewed in 2010 to take account of changes to national planning guidance published in Planning Policy Statement 12 in 2008. Since then there have been further changes to planning guidance so it was appropriate to review the SCI again to reflect these changes. In addition the ten Greater Manchester authorities have agreed to produce a joint Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Development Plan Document (GMSF). This SCI also sets out how the community and other stakeholders will be involved in the preparation of the joint GMSF.

This report and accompanying SCI provides an update to that approved by Council on 16th December 2015.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) be adopted, and published, as council policy.

Adoption of the 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). The SCI forms a key part of the Local Plan. It sets out how the council will involve the community in the preparation and revision of the Local Plan documents and the consideration of planning applications.
- 1.2 Oldham Council first adopted its SCI in April 2007. It was then reviewed in 2010 to take account of changes to national planning guidance published in Planning Policy Statement 12 in 2008. Since then there have been further changes to planning guidance so it is appropriate to review the SCI again to reflect these changes. In addition, the ten Greater Manchester authorities have agreed to produce a joint Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Development Plan Document (GMSF). This SCI sets out how the community and other stakeholders will be involved in the preparation of the GMSF.
- 1.3 The SCI outlines the techniques that may be used to engage the community at the various stages of preparation of Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents and Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment. It also outlines how the community will be consulted on planning applications.
- 1.4 The SCI links to all three Corporate Objectives. It sets out how people can comment on planning documents which will help businesses thrive; it involves residents and partners in consultations to help create confident communities and will contribute towards a co-operative council by ensuring we listen to and take on board any comments we receive.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 Consultation took place on the draft SCI from August 2015 to September 2015. We now have to adopt, and publish, the SCI as council policy.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Options 1: To not adopt, and publish, the SCI as council policy. There are no advantages to this option. The disadvantages will be that planning consultations will not be carried out in accordance with the most up to date legislation and guidance and there will be no details of the consultation opportunities regarding the preparation of the GMSF.
- 3.2 Options 2: To adopt, and publish, the SCI as council policy. The advantages of this are that it will provide certainty to residents, developers and other key stakeholders 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 and include details on how the community and other stakeholders will be involved in the preparation of the joint GMSF. There are no disadvantages to this option.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 The preferred option is Option 2. This will provide certainty to residents, developers and other key stakeholders 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 and include details on how the community and other stakeholders will be involved in the preparation of the joint GMSF.

5 Consultation

5.1 Consultation took place on the draft SCI from August 2015 to September 2015. We received comments from 9 respondents and have taken on board the comments received and made changes to the SCI where appropriate. The SCI has also been taken to the following meetings:

- Executive Management Team – 13 October 2015
- Leadership – 2nd November 2015

5.2 This report and accompanying SCI provides an update to that approved by Council on 16th December 2015. The revised document clarifies reference to recent changes to planning guidance and preparation of GMSF, as set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 Adopting the Statement of Community Involvement as Council policy will present no major financial implications. The service will incur small costs for publication and a cost for copies to be made available in libraries but is not expected to be more than £500. This will be funded from the Development Control & Planning cost centre 23700.

(Danny Jackson / 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. Under the Council's scheme of delegation relating to the local development framework, other decisions relating to the SCI may be made by the Portfolio Member in consultation with the Executive Director. (A Evans)

8. Co-operative Agenda

8.1 Having an up to date SCI will ensure residents and partners clearly understand when and how they will be consulted on planning matters it should also provide

them with confidence that their views and comments are listened to and considered.

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 N/A

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 N/A

11 IT Implications

11.1 None

12 Property Implications

12.1 The proposals do not directly impact on the Council's corporate property portfolio (Cath Conroy)

13 Procurement Implications

13.1 N/A

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 The Local Plan is the new land use plan and will have beneficial 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 safe, strong and sustainable 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 Review Statement of Community Involvement August 2015
Records held in Strategic Planning Room 310, Level 3, Civic Centre, Oldham
Officer Name : Clare Davison
Contact No : 0161 770 4139

20 **Appendices**

- 20.1 Appendix 1: Statement of Community Involvement March 2016
20.2 Appendix 2: Public Schedule of Representations and Responses for the Statement of Community Involvement