

Report to COUNCIL

Statement of Community Involvement 2021

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing

SRO: Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive – People and Place

Officer Contact: Emma Barton, Director of Economy

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Cabinet: 26 July 2021

Council: 28 July 2021

Reason for Decision

To adopt the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2021.

The SCI sets out how Oldham Council will involve the community in the preparation and the revision of planning policy such as the Local Plan, together with the consideration of planning applications.

This SCI is as per the adopted SCI 2020 version but with references to Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) amended to refer to Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.

An Equalities Impact Assessment was prepared to support the SCI 2020. Given the nature of the changes to this SCI 2021 it is considered that there is no need for a revised EIA as the only changes are in relation to altering references to GMSF to Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.

Recommendations

To adopt the SCI and make it available to view alongside the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) 2020.

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. The SCI document identifies how the council will involve the community in the consideration of planning applications, the preparation and revision of the Local Plan, the preparation of Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document; and it also sets out policies for giving advice or assistance on neighbourhood planning.
- 1.2 The SCI was last reviewed and adopted in 2020. Up until December 2020 a joint development plan document (DPD) of the ten Greater Manchester local authorities was being prepared - Greater Manchester's Plan for Jobs, Homes & the Environment (known as the "GMSF"). The GMSF 2020 had reached the Regulation 19 (Publication) stage of the process. However, the withdrawal of Stockport Council from GMSF signaled its end as a joint plan for the ten Greater Manchester districts.
- 1.3 The nine remaining GM councils (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan), have agreed to form a joint committee to prepare Places for Everyone - a joint development plan document for jobs, new homes and sustainable growth across their boroughs.
- 1.4 As part of progressing Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document and consultation arrangements it is considered appropriate to amend references from GMSF to Places for Everyone within Oldham Council's SCI.
- 1.5 This SCI is as per the adopted SCI 2020 version but with references to Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) amended to refer to Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.
- 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, how people can comment and get involved in the planning process and the result is a Local Plan and planning decisions that have been influenced co-operatively.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The updated SCI 2021 (Appendix 1) now needs to be adopted at Full Council as it is a Local Development Document. This then needs to be made available on the council's website and publicised. It will be made available at open libraries within Oldham and the civic centre upon request.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Option 1 – Adopt the SCI 2021 and make it available to view alongside the EIA (2020). The advantage of this option is that the SCI will provide certainty to residents, developers and other key groups and organisations as to the consultation methods the council will use. It will also allow us to progress the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document. There are no disadvantages to this option.

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- 3.2 Option 2 – Not to adopt the SCI 2021 and make it available to view alongside the EIA (2020). There are no advantages to this option. The disadvantage will be that the SCI will not refer to Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document, which will would not reflect the correct arrangements.

4 **Preferred Option**

- 4.1 Option 1 – Adopt the SCI 2021 and make it available to view alongside the EIA (2020). The advantage of this option is that the SCI will provide certainty to residents, developers and other key groups and organisations as to the consultation methods the council will use. It will also allow us to progress the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document. There are no disadvantages to this option.

5 **Consultation**

- 5.1 Public consultation is not required on the SCI given the nature of the changes.

6 **Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Adopting the SCI in line with Regulation 35 will involve making the documents available on the Council's website and publishing an adoption statement in a local newspaper. Therefore, the decision will result in no major financial implications. The service will incur small costs for publication and notifying people on the Local Plan mailing list. This is expected to be between £600 - £1,000 and will be met from within the existing Strategic Planning and Information revenue budget.

(Jamie Kelly)

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.

(Alan Evans)

8. **Co-operative Agenda**

- 8.1 The 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, and how people can comment and get involved in the planning process. The result is a Local Plan / planning decisions that have been influenced co-operatively.

9. **Communications comments**

- 9.1 Following adoption, the updated SCI 2021 (Appendix 1) will be published on the council's website and made available at open libraries within Oldham and the civic centre upon request. These actions will be publicised through council communications channels to ensure the community is aware and they are easily accessible.

(Jessica Beckett)

10 **Human Resources Comments**

10.1 N/A.

11 **Risk Assessments**

11.1 None received (Mark Stenson)

12 **IT Implications**

12.1 None

13 **Property Implications**

13.1 None.

14 **Procurement Implications**

14.1 N/A

15 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

15.1 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.

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

16.1 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.

17 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

17.1 Yes (2020)

18 **Key Decision**

18.1 Yes

19 **Key Decision Reference**

19.1 HSG-05-21

20 **Background Papers**

- 20.1 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: Statement of Community Involvement 2021
Records held in Strategic Planning, Room 310, Level 3, Civic Centre
Officer Name: Georgina Brownridge
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21 **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Statement of Community Involvement 2021