



Statement of Community Involvement - Consideration of Inspector's Report and Adoption

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and forms part of Derby's Local Development Framework. The SCI sets out the Council's intentions for involving the local community in the preparation and review of development plans. It also indicates how the Council will consult on planning applications.
- 1.2 The final version of the Statement of Community Involvement is the result of a number of stages of preparation. The comments received from the participants at the informal and formal consultation stages helped to shape the SCI document for Submission to the Secretary of State. The Council approved the draft SCI for Submission on 1 March 2006 and it was submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2006. The draft SCI was then examined by a Planning Inspector in October 2006. The Inspector has deemed the SCI "sound" subject to a few minor changes being made.
- 1.3 Now that the Inspector's Report into the SCI has been received, Cabinet is being asked to formally adopt the SCI. The final version of the SCI and a copy of the binding Inspector's Report are contained in Appendices 2 and 3 which can be seen on CMIS. The SCI is set to meet its target for adoption in January 2007 as established in the Council's Local Development Scheme.
- 1.4 The adoption of the SCI will be advertised in the local press and copies will be made available to the public. The adopted SCI will play a key role in guiding consultations on future Local Development Documents.

RECOMMENDATION

To recommend Council:

- 2.1 To note the contents of the binding Inspector's Report on the Statement of Community Involvement.
- 2.2 To resolve to adopt the amended Statement of Community Involvement and to authorise the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Community to make the necessary arrangements to comply with statutory procedures.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. Adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement in January 2007 is programmed in the Local Development Scheme.



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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 The preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and forms part of Derby's Local Development Framework. The SCI sets out the Council's intentions for involving the local community in the preparation and review of development plans. It also indicates how the Council will consult on planning applications.
- 1.2 The final version of the Statement of Community Involvement is the result of a number of stages of preparation. In 2005 we informally consulted business, community, environmental, hard- to- reach groups and adjoining authorities during the preparation of a draft version of the SCI. At the end of August 2005 the draft SCI was published for wider public consultation. The comments received from the participants in these informal and formal consultations helped to shape a draft SCI for Submission to the Secretary of State. The Council approved the draft SCI for Submission on 1 March 2006 and it was submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2006. Further comments were then received from various bodies including the Government Office for the East Midlands, The Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group and Derby City Partnership.
- 1.3 The draft SCI was then examined by a Planning Inspector in October 2006. The Inspector took the comments made at the Submission stage into account during this examination. The Inspector has deemed the SCI "sound" subject to a few minor changes being made. The Statement of Community Involvement was assessed against nine of tests of soundness as set out in the Government's Planning Policy Statement 12, Local Development Frameworks. Now that the Inspector's Report into the SCI has been received, Cabinet is being asked to formally adopt the SCI. A final version of the SCI and a copy of the Inspector's Report are contained in Appendices 2 and 3 which can be seen on CMIS. The preparation of the SCI is set to meet its target for adoption in January 2007, as established in the Council's Local Development Scheme.
- 1.4 The Inspector's Report makes a few minor changes to improve the clarity of the document. The majority of these changes were suggested by Council officers in response to representations received in the public consultation on the Submission SCI and we are therefore content to include them in the final SCI document. The Inspector's changes include:

- clarifying the link between the Local Development Framework and the Community Strategy by inserting a more robust reference to the role of the Derby City Partnership
 - adding Gypsies and Travellers to the section concerning “hard to reach” groups.
- 1.5 The Inspector’s Report is binding which means that no further changes can be made to the Statement of Community Involvement before it is adopted by the Council.
- 1.6 The adoption of the SCI will be advertised in the local press and copies of the document will be made available to the public. The adopted SCI will play a role in guiding future consultation on Local Development Documents. The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 require the Council to demonstrate that consultation on each Local Development Document has been carried out in accordance with the SCI. The emerging SCI has for example guided the public consultations recently carried out on the Supplementary Planning Document for the Rykneld Road housing site and the Eastern Fringes Area Action Plan. These consultations have involved household leaflet deliveries and public meetings.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2. The adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement is required by Regulation and the Inspector’s Report is binding. No other options have therefore been considered.

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Background papers: None

List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications
Appendix 2 – Final version of Statement of Community Involvement including Inspector’s amendments
Appendix 3 – Copy of Inspector’s Report on Statement of Community Involvement

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. There will be some printing and advertisement costs associated with adopting the SCI which can be accommodated within existing budgets.

Legal

2. Preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and the relevant regulations.

Personnel

3. Preparation of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement is an objective included in the Plans and Policies Business Plan 2006/7 and therefore has no additional staffing implications.

Equalities impact

- 4 The Statement of Community Involvement is directly concerned with improving community involvement in the planning process. Through its preparation we are seeking to ensure that we improve consultation with groups from a wide range of representatives of Derby's community including: voluntary bodies, businesses, different racial, ethnic or national groups, religious groups and bodies which represent the interests of disabled people.

Corporate Priorities

5. The proposal furthers the Council's priority to improve the quality of life in Derby's neighbourhoods by providing greater opportunities for people to participate in decisions about the area they live in.