

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

---

**Date of Meeting:** 29 September 2009  
**Report of:** John Knight, Head of Planning and Policy  
**Subject/Title:** Draft Statement of Community Involvement

---

### 1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a public statement of the local planning authority's procedures and intentions regarding community involvement in the production of Local Development Documents (LDD's), and Development Management decisions, giving information on when and how consultation will take place. It is intended to set out how Cheshire East Council will involve all sectors of the community: businesses, local residents, landowners, statutory agencies, and voluntary or community groups in the planning process.
- 1.2 The draft SCI indicates that the Council will engage communities from an early stage in the preparation of LDD's and throughout the process, with consultation being tailored to engage appropriate parts of the community at various stages of plan preparation. This is considered essential to achieve local ownership and legitimacy for the policies that will shape the future distribution of land uses and development in Cheshire East.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That
- (1) the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) be approved for the purposes of public consultation; and
  - (2) the results of the public consultation, and any recommended modifications to the draft SCI that may result, be reported to Cabinet for a resolution to adopt as part of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF).

### 3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To allow for public consultation on the SCI to be undertaken, and in the future for this document to be formally adopted as an LDD and so form part of the Council's Local Development Framework.

### 4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All wards in Cheshire East

## **5.0 Local Ward Members**

### **5.1 All Members**

## **6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health**

### **6.1** It is not considered that the SCI will have any policy implications for climate change and health. The SCI makes it clear that the Council favours electronic means of consultation wherever possible as a means of reducing resource use.

## **7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

### **7.1** None

## **8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

### **8.1** The costs of public consultation and the ultimate adoption of the SCI, including notification letters, will be met within the existing 2009/10 budget for Spatial Planning

## **9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

### **9.1** The preparation of a Statement of Community Involvement and certain Local Development Framework documents is a statutory requirement set out in the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. The proposals for consultation set out in the SCI exceed the minimum requirements detailed in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, as amended.

## **10.0 Risk Management**

### **10.1** There is unlikely to be any risk associated with public consultation of this document provided that the statutory requirements of the SCI preparation and consultation process are met.

## **11.0 Background and Options**

### **11.1** The Statement of Community Involvement is a feature of the reformed local planning system introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). The introduction of the Statement of Community Involvement was a direct response by Government to ensure that the community plays a greater role in the production of the Local Development Framework and in the taking of Development Management decisions. The draft SCI is attached in Appendix 1.

### **11.2** The main proposals of the draft SCI are as follows:

- To involve all sectors of the community from an early stage in the production of planning policy documents so that they input into the challenges, needs, requirements, options, and alternatives identified in these documents;
- To maintain an LDF consultation database so that all interested individuals and bodies are involved throughout the remaining stages of LDD production;
- To use a range of methods of consultation as appropriate including press notices/releases, meetings, focus groups, workshops, exhibitions, questionnaires and theme based forums;
- To favour the use of electronic means of consultation wherever possible via the use of emails and the Council's website;
- To seek to engage in joint consultations with other relevant strategies wherever possible, such as the Sustainable Community Strategy, to save resources, provide a more comprehensive approach and avoid consultation fatigue;
- To signpost the existence of the Neighbour Notification and Publicity for Planning Applications Protocol;
- To encourage applicants to undertake pre-application discussions prior to the submission of planning applications; and
- To commit the Council to periodically monitoring and reviewing the success of the consultation techniques it has used.

## **12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues**

- 12.1 The Statement of Community Involvement should be brought into effect to provide the basis for consultation for the Cheshire East Local Development Framework and will be reviewed when necessary.

## **13.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Stuart Penny  
 Designation: Spatial Planning  
 Tel No: 01244 973347  
 Email: [Stuart.Penny@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Stuart.Penny@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

### *Background Documents:*

- Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning, Communities and Local Government, 2008;
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004;
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008;

- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009