

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO: STRATEGIC PLANNING BOARD**

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**Date of Meeting:** 2 June 2010  
**Report of:** Adrian Fisher, Head of Planning and Policy  
**Subject/Title:** Statement of Community Involvement  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Jamie Macrae / Cllr David Brown

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a public statement of procedures and intentions regarding community involvement in the production of planning policy through the Local Development Framework and in Development Management decisions.
- 1.2 The draft Cheshire East Statement of Community Involvement was approved for consultation purposes on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and subject to consultation over an 8 week period between the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 and 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010. A total of 17 responses were received during the consultation period. The consultation stage has resulted in modifications to the presentation and style of the Statement of Community Involvement.

### **2.0 Decision Requested**

- 2.1 That the results of the public consultation and modifications to the draft SCI are noted and agreed.
- 2.2 That the Spatial Planning Board recommends that Cabinet recommends that the Council adopt the Statement of Community Involvement document as part of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF).

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 To allow the formal adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement as part of the Local Development Framework.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All Wards

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 All Members

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

- 6.1 The Statement of Community Involvement does not contain 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 notification letters attached to the adoption of the SCI will be met within the 2010/11 budget for Spatial Planning.

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

- 9.1 The preparation of a Statement of Community Involvement is a statutory requirement set out in the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. The proposals for consultation set out in the Statement of Community Involvement exceed the minimum requirements detailed in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended in 2008, 2009 and 2010).

## **10.0 Risk Management**

- 10.1 Statutory requirements of the Statement of Community Involvement preparation and consultation process have been addressed.

## **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 the determination of planning applications.
- 11.2 The draft Cheshire East Statement of Community Involvement was consulted upon over an 8 week period between the 23rd November 2009 and 18th January 2010. A total of 17 responses were received.
- 11.3 The consultation responses received to the draft Statement of Community Involvement has resulted in modifications to the proposed final version of the document, these include:
- The format and presentation of the document has been changed to improve the legibility and provide further detail on documents contained within the Local Development Framework, setting out clear opportunities for stakeholder involvement;
  - Additional tables and charts have been added to the document to set out specific stages of stakeholder involvement and detail how, where and when community

involvement can occur in the production of the Local Development Framework and determination of planning applications; and

- A reduction in the usage of abbreviations and technical jargon within the document.

#### 11.4 The main proposals of the Statement of Community Involvement 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, a consultation portal on the Local Development Framework 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 adopted to provide the basis for consultation on the Cheshire East Local Development Framework and reviewed when necessary.

### 13.0 Access to Information

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

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#### *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
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010