



Classification Open	Item No.
--------------------------------------	-----------------

Meeting:	Cabinet
Meeting date:	30 June 2021
Title of report:	Update to Bury's Statement of Community Involvement
Report by:	Cllr. Eamonn O'Brien (Leader) – Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth
Decision Type:	Non-Key Decision
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

Executive Summary:

This report seeks Member approval to adopt a revised version of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which will set out how the community will be involved in preparing and revising all local planning documents and in making decisions on planning applications.

The revisions to the SCI reflect the change in circumstances following the withdrawal of Stockport from the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and the agreement that the remaining nine Greater Manchester districts will instead work on the production of a joint development plan to be known as 'Places for Everyone'.

Whilst the procedures for consultation and engagement will not change, minor technical amendments are required to reflect the change in circumstances around the joint strategic plan and the change to the document name. These minor technical amendments are shown in green text within the attached version of the SCI.

Recommendation(s)

That:

1. Members approve the proposed changes shown in green text in Appendix 1 and adopt the Bury Statement of Community Involvement (June 2021).

Reasons for the decision:

To ensure that Bury's Statement of Community Involvement is up-to-date and reflects the current situation following the withdrawal of Stockport Council from the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

Other options considered and rejected:

None.

Key considerations**Background**

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how the community will be involved in preparing and revising all local planning documents and in making decisions on planning applications.

The SCI was last updated in October 2020 to reflect a number of changes to planning legislation, policy and guidance and to include a number of temporary arrangements for planning-related consultation to reflect measures to help combat the spread of Covid-19 - particularly those forms of engagement that involve public gatherings and/or face-to-face contact whilst social distancing measures are in place. These temporary measures are shown in red within the appended SCI and, at the meeting on 14 October 2020, Members agreed that the removal of these temporary measures should be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth once restrictions have been lifted.

The proposal

This report seeks Member approval to adopt a further revised version of the SCI to reflect the change in circumstances following the withdrawal of Stockport from the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and the agreement that the remaining nine Greater Manchester districts will instead work on the production of a joint development plan to be known as 'Places for Everyone'.

Whilst the procedures for consultation and engagement will not change, minor technical amendments are required to reflect the change in circumstances around the joint strategic plan and the change to the document name. These minor technical amendments are shown in green text within the attached version of the SCI.

Community impact/links with Community Strategy

The SCI sets out how the Council will actively seek to engage the community in preparing and revising all local planning documents and in making decisions on planning applications.

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Equality Analysis	<i>Please provide a written explanation of the outcome(s) of either conducting an initial or full EA.</i>
The Equality Analysis has not identified any negative impacts on any groups of people with protected equality characteristics.	

**Please note: Approval of a cabinet report is paused when the 'Equality/Diversity implications' section is left blank and approval will only be considered when this section is completed.*

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
None.	None.

Consultation:

There is no legal requirement for local planning authorities to consult when reviewing and updating their SCI. Nevertheless, authorities should consider involving communities in shaping their SCI, to help them understand what communities actually want.

The SCI was previously amended in 2020 to reflect a number of changes to planning legislation, policy and guidance and to include a number of temporary arrangements for planning-related consultation to reflect measures to help combat the spread of Covid-19. Given the scale and nature of these changes, a consultation draft of the SCI was made available for comment on the Council's website from 3rd to 31 August 2020.

However, the latest changes covered by this report largely involve revisions to the title of the joint plan and do not involve any changes to consultation procedures. As such, it is not considered necessary to undertake further consultation on these changes.

Legal Implications:

Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended provides that the Council must prepare a Statement of Community Involvement, which is a statement of the authority's policy as to the involvement in the exercise of its planning functions. It is important that the document is kept up to date to ensure effective community involvement at all stages of the planning process. The proposed amendments are as set out in the report minor.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Paul Lakin: Director of Economic Regeneration & Capital Growth

Email: p.lakin@bury.gov.uk

Background papers:

Appendix 1 - Revised Statement of Community Involvement (June 2021)

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	This sets out the standards to be achieved by the local authority in involving local communities in preparing and reviewing plans, and in the development management process.
Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF)	The GMSF is a Joint Development Plan Document which is being prepared collaboratively by the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the ten Greater Manchester Authorities. The GMSF will set the overall spatial strategy for Greater Manchester and will cover strategic policies including those identifying the appropriate scale and distribution of housing and employment development.
Places for Everyone Joint Plan (PfE)	Following the withdrawal of Stockport Council from the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, the remaining nine districts have agreed to prepare a joint plan covering those districts. This joint plan is to be referred to as 'Places for Everyone'.