

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION MAKER:	CABINET
DATE:	14 OCTOBER 2015
SUBJECT:	ADOPTION OF REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
REPORT FROM:	CABINET MEMBER – RESOURCES AND REGULATION
CONTACT OFFICER:	MICHAEL WHITEHEAD – SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER
TYPE OF DECISION:	CABINET - KEY DECISION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>This report brings forward a revised version of the existing Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which will set out how we will involve the community in preparing and revising all local planning documents, in making decisions on planning applications. The Council’s current SCI was adopted in August 2013. The document has now been revised to take account of changing circumstances, in particular to set out how consultation and community involvement will take place in respect of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), which is to be prepared by all ten Greater Manchester authorities.</p> <p>A decision was made under delegated powers by Cabinet Member for Resources and Regulation on 10 August 2015 to approve a draft version of the revised SCI for a 4-week public consultation. 10 representations have been received and minor changes have been made to the document where appropriate, and approval is now sought for the adoption of the revised SCI.</p>
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<p>Option 1 (Recommended Option) That Cabinet adopt the attached revised SCI.</p> <p>Option 2 That Cabinet seek revisions to the SCI before adoption. Members to specify the nature of any revisions to be sought.</p> <p>Option 3 That Cabinet do not adopt the revised SCI and specify reasons for their decision.</p>

	<p>Reasons</p> <p>Option 1 would ensure that the SCI is up-to-date and provides the necessary advice on how consultation and community involvement will take place on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, ahead of its public consultation on the Vision, Strategy and Options in Autumn 2015. Once adopted, the provisions of the SCI will be followed for all future consultation processes for Local Plan documents, including the GMSF, and planning applications, and will contribute to the soundness of Local Plan documents by ensuring that consistent and correct procedures have been followed.</p>
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	<p>Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes</p> <p>The SCI is part of the Bury Local Plan and takes account of national planning guidance and Regulations.</p>
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:	<p>This report revises the existing SCI (August 2013) to take account of changes e.g. Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.</p> <p>Consultation has been undertaken and this is reflected in the final version of the SCI.</p>
Equality/Diversity implications:	<p>No</p> <p>An initial screening has been undertaken (see attached assessment) which did not identify any negative impacts on equality.</p>
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes JH
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR: STEPHEN KENYON

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet/Committee	Council	
	14 October 2015		

1.0 BACKGROUND & ISSUES

- 1.1 The Council already has an SCI which was adopted by the Council's Cabinet on 28 August 2013. Since the document was adopted, the planning landscape at sub-regional level has changed to the extent that the adopted SCI requires an update in respect of the planning documents that the Council will seek the community's views on. In particular, the decision made by the Council on 28 January 2015 to approve the making of an agreement with the other nine Greater Manchester authorities in preparing jointly the GMSF signifies that it is now necessary to revise the Bury SCI to set out how consultation and community involvement will take place in respect of the GMSF.
- 1.2 The revised SCI has therefore been updated to include a section on the GMSF, which will be a Joint Development Plan Document (DPD) prepared by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) on behalf of the ten districts. The section, within Chapter 3 'Local Plans', sets out the scope of the GMSF, the groups which will be consulted, the stages at which AGMA will involve the community, and the methods which will be used to do this, together with contact details should anyone wish to be informed of future consultations. The SCI continues to be in a succinct, accessible format and is structured in 4 parts including an Introduction, General principles of planning consultations, Planning Policy and Planning Applications.

Draft SCI consultation and representations received

- 1.3 The Cabinet Member for Resources and Regulation approved the draft version of the revised SCI for a 4-week public consultation under delegated powers on 10 August 2015. The consultation draft of the SCI was made available for comment at deposit points and on the Council's website from 12 August to 9 September 2015.
- 1.4 A total of 10 formal representations were made during the consultation from a range of respondents including statutory bodies such as Historic England, Natural England and also from local groups such as the Bury Federation of Civic Societies. There was general support for the SCI and its content with some suggested minor amendments to the wording, one of which has been incorporated within the final document, as noted below. Some of the issues raised include the methods by which the Council involve the general public in planning consultations and requests to make reference to Ward Councils and Residents Associations within the list of bodies the Council are required to consult.
- 1.5 One minor change has been made to Chapter 3 following consultation to respond to a representation from Walmersley Residents Action Group in respect of notifying residents affected by site-specific proposals. Further minor changes have also been made to correct typographical errors, inaccuracies, updates or to clarify our approach further.

2.0 CONCLUSION

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the Statement of Community Involvement and approve the document for adoption.

List of Background Papers:-

- Draft Statement of Community Involvement (August 2015)
- SCI Responses Report
- Equality and Cohesion Impact Assessment Initial Screening Form

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