

REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE TEAM LEADER SPATIAL PLANNING TO THE PUBLIC SPACES AND LOCAL PLANS PANEL – 28 FEBRUARY 2006

CONSIDERATION OF THE SUBMISSION STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

1. Purpose

1.1 To present to the Panel the Statement of Community Involvement for consideration and comment prior to placing the document before the Executive Committee on 9 March 2006.

2. Recommendation

2.1 Option 1: Members endorse the Statement of Community Involvement as attached as Appendix 1 to this report, which will be placed before the Executive Committee on the 9 March 2006.

2.2 Option 2: Members propose alternative changes to the Statement of Community Involvement, with the amended Statement to be presented at the Executive, as late observation, on the 9 March 2006.

2.3 Having gained Executive approval, the document will then be formally submitted to the Secretary of State under Regulation 28 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 at the same time as being placed on formal public consultation for a period of six weeks.

3. Corporate Priority

3.1 The report is directly related to the Corporate Business Plan in respect of the following priority areas:

- Equality and Diversity (ensuring access to the LDF process by the community)
- Local Plan/Local Development Framework/Spatial Planning
- Customer Focus (through the Statement of Community Involvement)
- Partnership Working (with main stakeholders in the LDF process)

4. Background

4.1 The reports presented to the Panel on the 12 July and 30 August 2005 set out the key milestones involved in the SCI programme. The “milestones” are the steps to be taken towards achieving the approval of the SCI. For ease of reference these key milestones are replicated below in order for the Panel to view the SCI programme currently being followed.

1. Identify the “community”, their representatives and how they can be involved in the process.	By 23 rd May ‘05
2. Identify broad areas of interest and/or issues for each identified group.	By 12 th July ‘05
3. Prepare a first draft for internal consultation purposes.	By 29 th July ‘05
4. Prepare and obtain Executive approval for a final Draft SCI.	By 1 st Sept ‘05

Report No.7

5. Publish the Draft SCI for formal public consultation.	By 31 st Sept '05
6. Consider representations and in their light, prepare and obtain Executive approval for formal submission to the Secretary of State.	By 9th Mar '06
7. Publish the SCI for formal public consultation and Submission to the Secretary of State.	By 31 st Mar '06
8. Independent Examination of the SCI by the Planning Inspectorate.	By 31 st Sept '06
9. Publication of the Inspector's Binding Report	By Mar '07
10. Adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement.	By Mar '07

- 4.2 We are now at Step 6 having produced the attached SCI for internal consultation purposes. An analysis of any additional comments received during the internal consultation period will be presented verbally at the meeting.

The NWDC Statement of Community Involvement

- 4.3 On the 10th October 2005, an eight-week period of formal public consultation began on the draft SCI. During this period, 37 questionnaires were returned as well as 235 other representations being received from 63 individual objectors. In addition, we also held four forum sessions that were run by the external consultants Green Issues. The attached document contains all the appropriate changes that have been made in response to these representations.
- 4.4 This document will be presented to the Executive Committee on the 9th of March 2006 with a view to the document being approved and then published for formal submission to the Secretary of State and a further six-week period of public consultation by no later than the 3 April 2006.
- 4.5 The SCI has been significantly changed as a result of comments received during the draft consultation period. Most importantly, the document has been re-structured to incorporate a user-friendly "Easy Guide to Community Involvement in North Wiltshire" which is considered will be used by those wanting a general understanding of community involvement and what to expect. However, in order to provide the required level of detail demanded by Government Regulations and to provide some explanation to the detail contained in the former section, we have also included a "Comprehensive Statement of Community Involvement in North Wiltshire".
- 4.6 Once the report is formally submitted to the Secretary of State it will be tested for its soundness by a Government appointed Inspector. He/she will also consider whether it satisfies the statutory requirements for its preparation.
- 4.7 During the six-week public consultation period, any representations received will be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate for the Inspector's consideration. It is expected that most SCIs will be examined by written representation. However, there is a right to attend the examination and be heard and, where necessary, a formal public examination will be arranged by the Planning Inspectorate.
- 4.8 The Inspector will then publish his/her report with recommendations on how the document should be amended. This report will be binding on the Council. The Council will then formally adopted the document.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The financial implications of the production of the documents will be contained within the existing budget.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 There are no Human Resources implications arising directly from this report

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report, though the subject matter will have a considerable impact on the environment of North Wiltshire.

8. Community Implications

- 8.1 There are community implications arising directly from this report in that the Statement of Community Involvement will directly influence the ability of this Council to respond to the community on planning matters and for the continued involvement of the community themselves on influencing the direction of spatial planning within North Wiltshire.

9. Equalities and Diversity

- 9.1 The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement will be to ensure that policies support and implement equalities and diversity.

Documents Used: Planning Policy Statement 12 and Companion Guide "Creating Local Development Frameworks"; North Wiltshire District Local Development Scheme 2005; emerging North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011 and supporting studies.

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Date: 14 February 2006