

Subject: Rossendale Statement of
Community Involvement

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet
Full Council

Date: 01 August 2007
29 August 2007

Report of: Head of Planning, Legal and Democratic Services

Portfolio

Holder: Regenerating and Promoting Rossendale

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) forms part of the Rossendale Local Development Framework (LDF). The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the Council's commitment for involving the local communities in both the preparation of planning documents and in the process of considering planning applications for proposed developments.
- 1.2 The Statement of Community of involvement was submitted to the Secretary of State on 27th July 2006 for examination. A report into the examination was received back on 30th April 2007, which requires a number of binding changes to be made. The purpose of this report is to inform members of those changes so that the Statement of Community Involvement can be progressed to adoption.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.
- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
 - Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
 - Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The Statement of Community Involvement is a statutory document within the Local Development Framework which all Local Authorities are required to produce. Failing to do so will mean the authority is in contravention of paragraph 1.4 of Planning Policy Statement 12.
- The recommendations contained within the inspectors report on the Statement of Community Involvement are **binding** and **must** be carried forward. Failing to do so will mean the Local Authority is in contravention of paragraph 4.18 of Planning Policy Statement 12.
- If the Local Authority were to not produce a Statement of Community Involvement, it would be in contravention of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) forms part of the Rossendale Local Development Framework (LDF). It is one of several statutory documents which must be completed as part of the LDF.

4.2 The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the Council's commitment to involving the local communities in both the preparation of planning documents and in the process of considering planning applications for proposed development.

4.3 Preparation on the Rossendale SCI began back in April 2005 and it has successfully been through the issues and options (August to October 2005), and preferred options consultation (March to April 2006). The Rossendale SCI was then submitted in July 06, and was subject to a further consultation period of 6 weeks. 18 representations were received and accordingly an examination was then held by the Planning Inspectorate in April 2007. The Inspector's report into the examination was also received in April 2007. This report requires a modest number of technical changes to be made in order for the document to be found sound. It should be noted these changes are binding. The required changes are included in Appendix 1.

4.4 Once this SCI is adopted the Council will have to conform with the requirements for consultation that are set out in the SCI when preparing documents that will form the Local Development Framework (LDF) and on the consultation for planning applications.

4.5 As the inspectors comments are binding there are no options. In order to take the Statement of Community Involvement forward, the recommendations made need to be accepted and implemented.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

5.1 There are no immediate financial implications.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

6.1 The Forward Planning team has worked hard to deliver this the first of the LDF documents. The Inspectorate made very few changes to the SCI and it's a credit to the hard work of the team. As a Council we now need to promote awareness with applicants around the requirement to comply with the SCI when submitting planning applications.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

7.1 There are no Human Resources implications

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Statement of Community Involvement submission version has been received back from the secretary of state following examination, together with a report which requires a small number of changes to be made in order for the document to be sound. These changes are binding and must be implemented in order for the Statement of Community Involvement to be taken forward.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 To amend the SCI in accordance with the Planning Inspector's binding report in order for the document to be found sound.

9.2 To publish the adopted SCI.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 The Statement of Community Involvement has been through three stages of public consultation. The Issues and Options public consultation period was conducted between August and October 2005; the Preferred Options version between March and April 2006 and finally the most recent Submission Version was from 27th July to 7th September 2006.

10.2 Internally, reports to cabinet have been completed for each of the previous versions of the Statement of Community Involvement

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required Yes

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached Yes

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Submission version of the SCI Inspector's Report into the Rossendale SCI	Council website

APPENDIX 1 – SUMMARY OF INSPECTOR’S BINDING CHANGES

- 9.1 The binding changes required by the planning inspector are as follows:
- i) Notify all those who made a representation on the submission SCI of the publication of the inspectors report and the subsequent adoption of the SCI.
 - ii) Insert as a new paragraph, paragraph 4.17 to read as follows: “All consultees who are on the councils list of contacts will receive notifications of the commencement of the new consultations in accordance with the table in section 6”.
 - iii) Insert the following to the beginning of Appendix 2: “ Please note, this list is not exhaustive and also relates to successor bodies where re-organisations occur”.
 - iv) Add the following bodies to Appendix 2:
Manchester Airport
Post Office Property Holdings
Yorkshire Forward
Home Builders Federation
Additionally, remove from Appendix 2 the duplicate section entitled “Landowners, developers and agents”. Also remove the Countryside Agency and English Nature from Appendix 2 and replace with Natural England. Finally, as they are statutory consultees, move “Neighbouring Parish Councils” to the statutory consultee list within Appendix 2.
 - v) Add the following to the end of paragraph 5.14: “Any alternative sites proposed during the submission consultations will be advertised in the press and made available for comment for a period of six weeks on the councils website and at the same deposit locations used during the submission consultations.
 - vi) Add a new paragraph, after paragraph 5.7 to read as follows: “A sustainability appraisal will be prepared in parallel for each Development Plan Document and will be submitted at each production stage for consideration alongside the DPD. In respect of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) a Sustainability Appraisal will be prepared for each SPD and submitted at the production stage in parallel with the six week consultation period of the SPD”.
 - vii) Amend the final heading on page 13 so that it reads “stage 2b – production”. Also amend the heading on page 14 so that it reads: “Stage 3 – Adoption”.
 - viii) Insert the DPD process diagram immediately after Paragraph 5.7. Additionally insert the SPD process diagram immediately after paragraph 5.16. Also insert the LDF diagram, given in Appendix B to this [the inspectors] report, immediately after Paragraph 2.9.
 - ix) Add a sixth bullet point to Paragraph 4.15 to read: “All LDF documents will be available in alternative formats such as other community languages, Braille, large print or audio tape, on request”.
 - x) Insert the document in Appendix C to this [the inspectors] report, as the rear cover of the SCI.

- xi) Add the following to the end of Paragraph 7.5: “These reports will be made available on our website www.rossendale.gov.uk, at the councils one stop shop in Rawtenstall, and at the public libraries in Rawtenstall, Haslingden and Whitworth”.
- xii) Insert to the end of Paragraph 10.5: “The annual monitoring report, prepared by the council to monitor progress in preparing the LDF, will reflect on and evaluate the community involvement process”.
- xiii) Amend the third bullet point of paragraph 8.3 to read as follows: “Neighbour notifications by letter: all owners and occupiers adjacent to a proposal site, or who may be materially affected by a development are notified by letter and give 21 days to comment on a planning application. However, bodies such as Natural England will be allowed a longer period of time to comment on applications where this is prescribed by legislation”
- xiv) Add a final bullet point to paragraph 8.9 to read as follows: “Wind Turbine Proposals”
- xv) Implement the following amendments to the SCI:
 - On the contents page, insert the word “in” in between the words “involved” and “when”.
 - In paragraph 3.5, the first sentence of the paragraph should be updated to read: “The council has also produced a Communication Strategy which was issued for consultation during March 2006 and approved June 2006”.
 - Update page 33 as follows:
 “Direct dial telephone numbers:
 Stephen Stray (Senior Planner)
 01706 252420
 Anne Storah (Senior Planner)
 01706 252418
 Joseph Hildred (Planning Assistant)
 01706 252419
 Gwen Marlow (Technical Assistant)
 01706 252417