
**STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PART 2
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Chris McEwan
Economy and Regeneration Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Ian Williams, Director of Economic Growth

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The report sets out, for Members' approval, the content of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement insofar as it relates to the Development Management process, and the process and timescales for the adoption of the document.

Summary

2. The Council is required to publish A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) that sets out the Council's approach to consulting the local community and other stakeholders on planning matters. In April 2016, Cabinet agreed on the content of an update to the then adopted Statement of Community Involvement (July 2010), insofar as it related to the Local Plan process. This report seeks to update community involvement processes particularly related to Development Management operations.
3. Before the new SCI can be adopted, it should be published for consultation within the local community and other stakeholders. It is proposed that public consultation on the draft SCI should take place for a six week period. The Draft SCI Part 2 Community Involvement in Planning Applications is provided as **Appendix One**.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Members approve the SCI Part 2 Community Involvement in Planning Applications as a basis for consultation.

- (b) Members delegate authority to the Director of Economic Growth to agree the final SCI document, in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Regeneration and if necessary to make minor amendments to the document following the six week consultation period prior to adoption.

Reasons

5. The recommendations are supported as the Council is required to have an up to date Statement of Community Involvement (Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 15, as amended by Section 111, Localism Act 2011).

Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Dave Coates : Extension 6490

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no direct Crime and Disorder matters arising from this report.
Health and Well Being	There are no direct Health and Well Being matters arising from this report
Carbon Impact	There are no direct carbon Impact matters arising from this report.
Diversity	The proposal will be of benefit for all sections of the community equally and incorporates equal access principles.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The planning process represents the spatial implications of the overarching aims of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed.
Efficiency	The proposed SCI represents the most efficient option for community involvement in planning applications having regard to the legislative and engagement requirements. The Statement of Community Involvement incorporates the principle of utilising electronic communications as a preferred method of communication where appropriate.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Background

6. A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out the Council's approach to consulting the local community and other stakeholders on planning matters within the local planning authority boundary.
7. In April 2016, Cabinet agreed on the content of an update to the then adopted Statement of Community Involvement (July 2010), insofar as it related to the Local Plan process. This part of the Statement of Community Involvement was subsequently adopted and is currently in use.
8. The remainder of the 2010 SCI as it related to the Development Management process was not superseded. This element of the SCI is now considered to be out of date as a result of changes in processes, legislation, and national policy since it was adopted in 2010, and a new SCI is being prepared to guide public consultation in the determination of planning applications. Further, proposed enhancements to ICT systems will allow easier public access to planning applications facilitating more effective communications.
9. Before the new SCI can be adopted, it should be published for consultation within the local community and other stakeholders. It is proposed that consultation on the draft SCI should take place for a six week period. The Draft SCI Part 2 Community Involvement in Planning Applications is provided as Appendix One.

Draft Statement of Community Involvement Part 2: Community Involvement in Planning Applications

10. The Draft SCI (Appendix 1) mainly sets out how the Council will involve local communities, businesses and key stakeholders in the various stages of determining planning and other applications such as Listed Building Consents, Advertisement consents that follow similar processes. The SCI also covers general enquiries to Development management and community involvement in reporting and resolving breaches of planning control
11. The document sets out some key overarching principles for engagement in the planning process and explains what the Council will do on receipt of both planning applications and pre-application enquiries. This includes clear communication, ease of involvement, and effectiveness of involvement and sharing of information.
12. The methods that the Council uses to publicise applications and consult the community, which exceed the minimum requirements set out by legislation are as follows:
 - (a) Neighbour notification letters
 - (b) Site notice
 - (c) Public notice in the local press
 - (d) Publication on the Council's website
 - (e) Electronic Communications and use of the Councils web site.

13. The document also sets out what is expected of developers in terms of community engagement for significant planning applications and also explains the offer to hold a meeting with members to present schemes at an early stage in the process pre-application.
14. It is considered that the draft SCI represents the most efficient means of ensuring the engagement of local communities, businesses and key stakeholders in the various stages of determining planning applications, which whilst complying with the legislative requirements, is determined on a case by case basis depending on matters such as the scale, location and nature of the development being considered.