

Meeting: Cabinet
Date: 10 November 2005
Subject: Statement of Community Involvement
Responsible Officer: Director of Property Services (Urban Living)
Contact Officer: Dennis Varcoe
Portfolio Holder: Planning, Development and Housing
Key Decision: Yes
Status: Public

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

- Cabinet is requested to confirm recommendations (1) and (2) made by the Strategic Planning Advisory Panel (SPAP) Committee on 8th November 2005 as attached at Appendix 2.
- That the Director of Legal Services be authorised to serve any statutory notices that may be required.

Reasons for report

- SPAP has no executive powers to make decisions, so the recommendations are being put forward to Cabinet for approval.
- SPAP is required to consider the responses to the first formal consultation stage and agree any necessary changes prior to submission to the Secretary of State. Members also need to be advised of progress against the timetable set in the LDS.

Benefits

- Public Involvement in the preparation of the SCI is a positive move towards increasing public awareness at the outset of preparing the Local Development Framework. Maximising engagement will enhance the Council's corporate objective of promoting diversity and inclusion. It

should also reduce public opposition to policy implementation.

Cost of Proposals

- The cost of producing the SCI document is contained within the current Departmental budget. Any associated cost relating to future implementation would be considered in future reports.

Risks

- Delaying the SCI would effectively result in the Council's failure to meet the LDS timetable milestones. This may also lead to a reduction in the Planning Delivery Grant (PDG). Equally the failure to proceed accordingly will undermine the Council's commitment to the new planning system as prescribed by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The importance of the provision of adequate resources is important to the success of the whole process.

Implications if recommendations rejected

- This will lead to a failure to meet the approved LDS timetable.
- This may also lead to a reduction in the Planning Delivery Grant (PDG).

Section 2: Report

Brief History and Options considered

The statutory process for developing the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to adoption requires Cabinet to agree the Statement to be submitted to the Secretary of State. At its meeting on 13th September 2005, the SPAP noted that progress on the draft SCI was in accordance with the Local Development Scheme (LDS) timetable. The report of the initial consultation was considered and officers were asked to embark on the formal 6 weeks public consultation period. The consultation period took place between 23rd September and 4th November 2005. The report to SPAP, attached at Appendix 1, sets out the results of this exercise, gave an overview of the rate of response, highlighted the main issues raised by the respondents and indicated changes to be made to the SCI as a result. Cabinet should note that the summary of responses has been updated to include those received after the deadline.

The SCI has been produced at the same time as the corporate strategy on community engagement has been developing. It includes reference to the importance of engagement with the HSP in the process of producing documents which will comprise the Local Development Framework, and the links to the Community Strategy.

Cabinet should note that in relation to the SCI submission timetable, the six-week consultation period will run from 18 November – 30 December 2005 not 25 November 2005 – 6 January 2006 (as stated in paragraph 2.4 of the Panel's report)

Cabinet is requested to authorise the submission of the SCI to the Secretary of State and to authorise officers to concurrently proceed with second formal public consultation on the SCI.

Consultation

See attached SPAP report

Financial Implications

See attached SPAP report.

Legal Implications

See attached SPAP report

Equalities Impact

See attached SPAP report

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

Appendix 1 - Report considered by the Strategic Planning Advisory Panel on 8th November 2005

Appendix 2 – Recommendation of the Strategic Planning Advisory Panel meeting held on 8th November 2005