

ADVISORY

AGENDA NO.

**REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

DATE: 15 MARCH 2006

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF
DEVELOPMENT AND
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

SUMMARY

1. This report advises Members of the recommendations of the Inspector's report, following the examination into the "soundness" of the Statement of Community Involvement.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Members are recommended to:
 - i) Note the contents of the Inspector's report.

BACKGROUND

3. The Statement of Community Involvement was submitted to the Secretary of State at the end of August. This coincided with a 6-week period when formal representations could be submitted for consideration by an independent Inspector as part of the examination into the "soundness" of the Statement.
4. The examination is now completed, and the Inspector has issued his report, a copy of which is attached. The Inspector's report is binding, and the Statement of Community Involvement must be amended in line with the Inspector's recommendations to be "sound".
5. Members considered a report on the Statement of Community Involvement at Planning Committee on 22 February, prior to the Inspector's report being received.

THE INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

6. The Inspector has examined the Statement of Community Involvement in relation to 9 tests of "soundness". These are set out as part of the Inspector's report in Appendix A.
7. The Inspector concluded that the Statement was sound in relation to tests 1 to 6 and test 8, but has recommended minor amendments in relation to tests 7 (see Recommendation R1) and 9 (see Recommendation R2). The wording recommended in relation to test 7 is, for the most part, that put forward by the Council during correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate, as set out in Appendix B of the Inspector's report.
8. A further 6 recommendations have been made, relating to amendments proposed by the Council in response to representations received during the

consultation period. These are set out at the end of the Inspector's report, Recommendations R3 to R8.

9. A copy of the submission draft Statement of Community Involvement is attached, so that Members can relate the changes recommended by the Inspector to the existing text.

THE NEXT STEPS

10. Following approval and adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement, as soon as reasonably practical, the Council must make the Inspector's report available for inspection, and give notice of adoption.
11. Once adopted, the Council will need to follow the policy and commitments set out in the Statement of Community Involvement in consulting with the community when preparing local development documents.

RECOMMENDATION

12. Members are recommended to:
 - i) Note the contents of the Inspector's report.

Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services.

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Background Papers - Submission draft Statement of Community Involvement

Financial Implications - The Statement of Community Involvement needs to be adopted by the end of March in order to meet the target set out in the Local Development Scheme. Failure to do so could result in the loss of planning Delivery Grant.

Environmental Implications- N/A

Community Safety Implications - N/A

Human Rights Implications - The provisions of the European Convention of Human Rights 1950 has been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

Ward and Ward Councillors - N/A