

REPORT TO: Planning Committee
Cabinet

DATE: 12 January 2011
27 January 2011

SUBJECT: Updated Statement of Community Involvement

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Andy Wallis, Planning & Economic Development Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Ian Loughlin
Telephone 0151 934 3558

**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To inform members of comments received to consultation on an updated Statement of Community Involvement. To ask Cabinet to approve the updated Statement of Community Involvement (available to view at www.sefton.gov.uk/sci)

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The Statement of Community Involvement is required to be updated on a regular basis

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Planning Committee recommends to Cabinet that the updated Statement of Community Involvement be approved.

Cabinet to approve the updated Statement of Community Involvement.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following the expiry of the 'call in' period for the minutes of this meeting

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

That the existing Statement of Community Involvement (approved 2006) be retained to set out how we consult our residents and other stakeholders.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: N/a

Financial: There are no financial implications as a result of this report (FD 577)

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: There are no legal implications as the result of this report (LD 00017/10)

Risk Assessment: If the updated Statement of Community Involvement is not approved the risk is that using the previous version will not reflect recent changes to planning regulations and the Council wide approach to consultation.

Asset Management: N/a

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Community And Engagement Panel.

FD 577 - The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report

LD 00017/10 – The Director of Legal Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		✓	
5	Environmental Sustainability		✓	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	✓		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People	✓		

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

None

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Local Development Framework system introduced the requirement of a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This is a document that sets out how the Council will engage with local communities and others on its planning policies and in the planning application process. In Sefton we started work on our SCI soon after the Local Development Framework system was introduced and our SCI was formally adopted in October 2006 following independent examination.
- 1.2 Since the adoption of the SCI a number of things have happened which mean we need to update it. Firstly we need to reflect changes to the planning regulations that were introduced in 2008 and 2009 which included simplifying the stages in producing planning documents. Secondly we need to take account of the Sefton Public and Engagement Framework that was launched in October 2009. Finally we need to reflect on the consultation that we have undertaken over the past few years, particularly on the Core Strategy, as we now have a better understanding of what works well and what doesn't. This review accords with our commitment in the adopted SCI that we will regularly update it to take account of changing circumstances.

2. CONSULTING ON THE UPDATED SCI:

- 2.1 A draft updated SCI was made available for consultation and reflected the changes set out above. The draft SCI also took account of the results of a survey we carried out to find out how people would prefer to be consulted. The draft updated Statement of Community Involvement was made available for an eight-week consultation on 5 August 2010. A table of comments received and how we responded to them can be viewed at www.sefton.gov.uk/SCI.

3. FINAL UPDATED SCI:

- 3.1 In response to the comments made during consultation we made the following further change to the updated Statement of Community Involvement. Firstly we will now ensure all consultees on our database (whether statutory or not) will be contacted at formal stages of all DPD and SPD consultations rather than just for the Core Strategy. We will also now make it clear that timescales for consultation periods will be a minimum rather than a set time. We will also make it much easier for groups and residents to add their details to our consultation database so they can be notified of planning documents. Finally we will now inform statutory consultees who make representations on planning applications when the decision is made.
- 3.2 The final version of the updated Statement of Community Involvement for which we are seeking approval can be viewed at www.sefton.gov.uk/sci.
- 3.3 If approved the updated Statement of Community Involvement will form part of the Local Development Framework and will guide the way in which we consult on our planning policies and planning applications.