

REPORT TO: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 14th November 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment

SUBJECT: Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) S018 Local Development Document

WARDS: Boroughwide

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Board on the review of the ‘Statement of Community Involvement’ (SCI), a town planning process document. As with other ‘Local Development Documents’ Government requires that SCIs should be regularly reviewed, at least every 5 years. The last SCI was adopted in 2013 and the power to adopt the SCI rests with Executive Board.

2 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve submission of the SCI to Executive Board for adoption.

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Government requires Councils produce and keep up to date a Statement of Community Involvement “which should explain how they will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications”.
- 3.2 The SCI becomes a procedural test against which our planning documents / decisions can be judged, i.e. that relevant planning documents / applications have been subject to the level of public consultation as set out in the SCI. As such the document sets out the minimum level of consultation that each class of document / decision will be subject to. Where appropriate, and where time and resources allow, we would seek to go above and beyond the baseline standards set out in the attached document (Appendix A).

- 3.3 The duties to engage the community in planning matters and to prepare the SCI arise from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (section 18) as amended by the Planning Act 2008, the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. This legislation requires that Local Planning Authorities prepare a statement for how it will involve those with an interest in development in the area, including the preparation and review of the Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents, Neighbourhood Plans/Orders, Community Infrastructure Levy and the consideration of planning applications.
- 3.4 The SCI is intended to inform the community about how and when they can get involved. The procedures contained with an adopted SCI must be followed for consultation on all Local Plan documents, Neighbourhood Plans/Orders, Community Infrastructure Levy and all planning applications within Halton.
- 3.5 The SCI is also guided by the Government's Consultation Principles: Guidance (2016) which provides guidance on how consultations should be conducted in general, by adopting a more proportionate and targeted approach.
- 3.6 The council's first SCI was adopted in 2007 and revised in 2013. It is being updated in 2018 because there have been a number of legislative changes to the way that planning documents are prepared. In addition, technological advances have seen the emergence of online and electronic communication as the preferred media for many individuals and organisations.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The SCI has been produced to ensure that through its function as a Local Planning Authority; the Council is in accordance with National Planning Policy and relevant regulations.

5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No other issues have been identified.

6 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 Failure to comply with consultation requirements set out in legislation / regulations and the SCI would leave the adoption of the affected document subject to legal challenge.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 Government is keen to see 'Digital as Default', allowing public sector service providers to realise efficiencies whilst improving services to connected users. Advertising and conducting consultations primarily through digital means significantly reduces costs to the Council but risks partially excluding residents and organisations without access to the internet.

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004 as amended) Section 18	Municipal Building	Alasdair Cross
Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012(as amended)	Municipal Building	Alasdair Cross
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)	Municipal Building	Alasdair Cross
CLG (2010) The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (as amended)	Municipal Building	Alasdair Cross
Halton Local Development Scheme	Municipal Building	Alasdair Cross