

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 19th November 2020

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment

SUBJECT: Local Plan - Addendum to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The production of Local Plans for land use planning purposes is supported by statutory process documents. One such document is the 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI) 2019. National legislative change requires an addendum (Appendix A) to be temporarily added to the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which forms part of the Halton Local Plan Framework. Changes to statutory planning documents require a resolution from Executive Board for formal implementation.
- 1.2 The adopted SCI can be found on the website from the link below:
<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/planning/policyguidance/pdf/evidencebase/SCI2019.pdf>

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 **the Board approves the addition of the addendum (Appendix A) to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for Local Plan making.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Government has introduced new legislation to help deal with governance issues during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The relevant legislation here is the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure, Listed Buildings and Environmental Impact Assessment) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.
- 3.2 These new regulations provide for the temporary suspension (until 31st December 2020) of certain planning consultation procedures where they may conflict with Covid-19 public health priorities. This affects the holding of public meetings, public committee meetings, making documents available to view in public locations (i.e. offices / libraries) and the holding of referenda on Neighbourhood Plans etc.

3.3 The SCI was approved by the Executive Board on 13th April 2019. The SCI is a statutory requirement and sets out how the Council will involve the local community, stakeholders, and statutory bodies in the preparation and revision of Local Plans. The SCI also describes the Council's procedures for involving the community when considering planning applications and major proposals for development. The SCI forms part of a suite of documents that make up Halton's Local Plan.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council's first SCI was adopted in 2006, and revised in 2012 and 2019. It is being updated in 2020 because there have been a number of legislative changes to the way that planning documents are publicised and consulted upon during the COVID 19 pandemic.

4.2 The SCI addendum has been produced to ensure that the Council, through its function as a Local Planning Authority, complies with national planning policy and regulations.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications arising from the subject of this report.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 There are legal and financial risks that can arise from not following statutory procedures for the preparation of local plans. For example, the process can be challenged through the Courts if the relevant national legislation is not followed.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from the subject of this report.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure, Listed Building and Environmental Impact Assessment)(England)(Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.	Planning & Transport Strategy, Municipal Building	Alasdair Cross
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004 as amended) Section 18	Planning & Transport Strategy, Municipal Building	Alasdair Cross
Town and Country Planning (Local	Planning & Transport	Alasdair Cross

Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)	Strategy, Municipal Building	
Halton Local Development Scheme	Planning & Transport Strategy, Municipal Building	Alasdair Cross