



**TITLE: Rossendale Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement**

**TO/ On Council 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005**

**BY: Stephen Pimlott (Planning Officer)**

**LEAD MEMBER: Councillor William Challinor**

**STATUS: For Publication**

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Council with notice of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), its current consultation and amendments to that document following the representation received.
- 1.2 This report follows information provided in Item F5 (Appendix B) of the Overview and Scrutiny meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Council endorse the document which is out for consultation.

## **3. REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 3.1 Like the Local Development Scheme a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a technical based document. It shows how and when planning authorities intend to consult local communities and other stakeholders when preparing documents. A key outcome of the SCI will be to encourage 'front loading' – this means that consultation begins at the earliest stages of a document's development so that communities are given the opportunity to be involved and to make a difference. A copy of the draft is set out at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 A Statement of Community Involvement must provide good levels of access to information and identify methods of consultation that it can deliver. It should be designed to increase the opportunity to create understanding of the planning system and actively encourage communities to contribute ideas and representations, and for Rossendale to provide regular and timely feedback.

3.3 Further opportunity for consultation will be provided during the submission stage of the document in during December 2005. This stage will provide an additional 6 weeks for representations to be received upon submission to the Secretary of State.

#### **4. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS**

4.1 Members are encouraged to read the Local Development Framework briefing note Attached to this report and to visit [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk) to gain greater understanding of planning issues. Further information of the Local Development Framework and Planning Policy can also be viewed at [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk). Member raining on the Local Development Framework will as the LDF progress through the statutory process.

#### **4.2 HUMAN RESOURCES**

4.3 The methods of consultation identified in the Rossendale SCI is largely determined by its capacity to deliver the methods of communication and consultation identified in the document. Therefore the Council will need to consider whether any further improvements or additional forms of consultation identified through the consultation process are deliverable through the existing structure and capacity of the Forward Planning Team.

#### **5 ANY OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5.1 That the documents future development both informs and is informed by developments in the Local Strategic Partnership, Community Network, and Consultation Strategies etc.

#### **6. RISK**

6.1 The preparation of the Statement of Community is subject to meeting the milestones set out in the Local Development Scheme. Failure to meet the milestones may impact on the Councils ability to receive the maximum Planning Delivery Grant available.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT**

It is a statutory requirement that the SCI is put out for consultation. The regulation states that the consultation period should be for no less than 6 weeks.

#### **8. EQUALITIES ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT**

The need to identify hard to reach groups in and outside of the borough.

#### **9. WARDS AFFECTED**

All

#### **10. CONSULTATIONS**

Internal consultation with RBC officers  
Statutory Consultation.

**11. Background documents:**

Planning Policy Position Statement 12  
Rossendale Local Development Scheme

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:

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