

Subject:	Responses received from the consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and amendments made to the updated SCI	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	27 th February 2019
Report of:	Planning Manager	Portfolio Holder:	Regulatory Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	To note the responses received in respect of the consultation undertaken on the Statement of Community Involvement.
1.2	That Council approve the 2019 Statement of Community Involvement to be effective from 28 th February 2019

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The Council is required to maintain a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This sets out how the Council will approach consulting statutory consultees, the public and interested parties, in respect of planning matters. The current SCI was prepared at the end of 2014 with an update on 25th January 2016. With the designation of Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum in April this year, together with a number of national changes to the planning system over the last three years, it is important that the current SCI be refreshed and revised.
- 2.2 This Report seeks to inform members of the responses received during the consultation undertaken on the Statement of Community Involvement 2018 and also seeks approval for the revised Statement of Community Involvement 2019 which will replace the adopted 2014 SCI.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **A clean and green Rossendale:** our priority is to keep Rossendale clean and green for all of Rossendale's residents and visitors, and to take available opportunities to recycle and use energy from renewable sources more efficiently.
 - **A connected and successful Rossendale that welcomes sustainable growth:** our priority is to ensure that we are well connected to our residents, key partners and stakeholders. We want to make the most of every pound we spend and we are always looking for new and innovative ways to make the resources we do have, work harder for us.
 - **A proud, healthy and vibrant Rossendale:** our priority is to ensure that we are creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant place for people to live and visit.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The current document is now up-to-date and reflects recent legislative changes and the Council's approach to neighbourhood planning. Failure to approve the updated SCI will lead to the Council not fulfilling its statutory requirement of having an up-to-date SCI.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

5.1 The revised SCI reflects the range of changes the Government has introduced to "simplify" the planning system and the new General Data Protection Regulation. The designation of the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum has also prompted an update of the Council's approach to neighbourhood planning which the SCI reflects.

5.2 Consultation Responses

Consultation was undertaken on the revised SCI, starting on 23rd August 2018 and ended on 5th October 2018.

A total of five responses were received during the consultation on the SCI: two from residents and three from statutory consultees. The statutory consultees confirmed they were aware of the consultation but had no specific comments to make.

5.3 A brief summary of the comments received in relation to the SCI document specifically are as follows:

Comments received on the SCI	Council's Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 1.2 does not take account of the publication of the revised National Planning Policy Guidance in July 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation is incorrectly shown in the plural. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 1.2 has been amended and makes reference to the recent publication of the 2018 National Planning Policy Framework, as well as the updated to the National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), in particular the reference to Plan-Making, published in September 2018. • Grammatical error of GDPR has been corrected.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraphs 1.3 and 2.3 contain misleading references to Neighbourhood Forums. The bodies that are referred to have been renamed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bodies previously referred to as Neighbourhood Forums have been renamed Community Partnerships and paragraphs 1.3 and 2.3 have been changed to reflect this.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likewise, the reference to Area Forums in Table C is confusing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The title 'Area Forums' has been replaced with 'Community Partnerships'.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The definition of Neighbourhood Forum in the Glossary is obsolete and confusing. Neighbourhood Forum as per the Localism Act 2011 should be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The definition of Neighbourhood Forum in the Glossary has been updated whilst a new definition for Community Partnerships has been

defined, as should the bodies formerly described by the Council as Neighbourhood Forums.	included.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What is it?" in Table A Stage 3 is misleading. The Council must send all comments (or copies) to PINS at the time of submission for examination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The text to which this comment relates has been revised.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footnotes identifying statutory instruments should also quote their number. The GDPR should have a footnote showing its EU number. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The footnotes related to legislation and the GDPR have included their statutory numbers and EU number respectively.

5.4 In reference to the comments received, the SCI has been updated and is now in accordance with the above.

5.5 One response received during the SCI consultation was directed towards the Council's consultation process and the methods adopted to consult. A brief summary of the response is as follows:

- The Council's consultation process has failed to adequately consult residents affected by proposals set out in the Local Plan.
- The documents related to the consultation fail to be clear and concise.
- The Council has failed in their response to previous consultations.
- Members of the public are unable to make meaningful representations due to the lack of sufficient information, the use of specialist language and the large volume of documentation.
- The Council's consultation process has failed to target a wide demographic and the methods adopted have been insufficient.

5.6 The Council has fulfilled its statutory duties in respect of consulting on the Local Plan and is mindful of the need to use clear language and avoid jargon where possible.

5.7 The Council recognises the importance of consulting the public when producing / updating planning documents and Table C of the updated SCI 2018 details the various methods the Council has adopted throughout the production of the Local Plan and the SCI. The Council has attempted to consult a range of stakeholders across Rossendale and will continue to take its statutory requirements seriously.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 Any financial implications arising will be contained within existing budget resources.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 All local planning authorities must prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) as defined by the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004* (which received minor amendments through the *Localism Act 2011*). Section 18 (2) of the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)* states that "The statement of community

involvement is a statement of the authority’s policy as to the involvement...of persons who appear to the authority to have an interest in matters relating to development in their area.”

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 The SCI sets out how the public, businesses, interest groups and individuals can be included in drafting local planning policy and in the planning application process. Consultation for six weeks was undertaken on the Draft SCI and the comments have been considered and incorporated accordingly.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The Council has published the responses received on the revised SCI and the Council has updated the SCI to reflect the required changes.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Draft Statement of Community Involvement (published August 2018)	https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/
Statement of Community Involvement 2019	https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/
Responses received during consultation undertaken on Statement of Community Involvement 2018	https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/