

# DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF		MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		15 JUNE 2016	6
UPDATED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT				

## PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### SUMMARY

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the local planning authority to prepare a 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI). The SCI details the parties to be consulted, and the manner of consultation, both during the process of determining planning applications, and in formulating Development Plans. Fylde Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted by the Council on 26 September 2011.

However, the current SCI is now considered out of date due to various changes in planning legislation, particularly the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The introduction of the Localism Act 2011, which was formally adopted in November 2011. The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. The introduction of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which saw the transition from Local Development Frameworks to Local Plans and the introduction of neighbourhood planning.

As the Council is under a legal requirement to have an up to date SCI it is considered that due to the significant changes to the planning system and legislation there is a need for a new updated SCI.

Following Development Management Committee on the 16 September 2015, it was agreed that the updated SCI could go out for a seven week consultation, which started on the 15 October 2015 and ended on the 3 December (in line with the consultation of the RPO). Emails or letters were sent to the consultation bodies set out in Regulation 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, which the Council is required to consult under Regulation 18. These bodies are contained on the Council's Register of Consultees. Other relevant bodies and individuals who are registered on the Council's Register of Consultees were notified. The Register of Consultees is updated regularly to take account of requests received from consultants, organisations, residents and other parties to be informed of future planning policy consultations.

Council staff were informed through the Council's intranet and emails were sent to Heads of Service. There was also an article in the Council's staff newsletter, 'Grapevine' in the October edition. The Council's management team was briefed by the Head of Planning and Regeneration.

The purpose of this report therefore is to present a request for the Development Management Committee to endorse the document for adoption by Fylde Borough Council.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Development Management Committee agrees to adopt the Updated Statement of Community Involvement.

## SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Fylde Council's initial Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted by the Council in July 2007. Due to changes in legislation an updated version of the SCI was approved in September 2011.

On the 16 September 2015 the Development Management Committee agreed that the draft of an updated SCI be issued for consultation.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services ( <b>Value for Money</b> )	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council ( <b>Clean and Green</b> )	✓
Working with all partners ( <b>Vibrant Economy</b> )	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live ( <b>A Great Place to Live</b> )	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit ( <b>A Great Place to Visit</b> )	✓

## REPORT

### UPDATED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) demonstrates Fylde Council's commitment to engage with local people and other stakeholders on planning issues. The SCI is one of a collection of documents that make up the Development Plan. For most local planning authorities it is the first document that they produce, as it sets out how they are going to consult on the other documents that will make up the Development Plan. It provides a structured approach to engaging with local people and organisations across the Fylde Borough in the preparation of planning policy documents and planning applications.
2. The SCI describes the purpose of SCI's, the new planning system of Development Plans and Local Plans, the register of consultees, methods of consultation that will be used, how we will respond to consultees, weight to be given to representatives and resource implications. For Development Management it sets out consultation methods, time limits, weight to be given to representatives, reporting back mechanisms, the scheme of delegation, and the workings of Development Management Committee and resource implications. The purpose of the SCI is to set out clearly what people can expect to happen when they engage with the Local Planning Authority.
3. The Council's first Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted in 2007, this was subsequently updated in September 2011 due to new and amended legislation. Since then there has been a raft of new legislation which has reshaped and changed the planning system, through the introduction of the Localism Act 2011, the scrapping of Regional Spatial Strategies and the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012.

4. For example, the Localism Act 2011, and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), introduced in 2012, consolidated the plan preparation process, replacing the term 'Local Development Framework' with the term 'Local Plan'. Therefore a revised SCI is considered apt to reflect these type of changes.
5. A further key objective this raft of new legislation introduced was to strengthen local community participation and stakeholder involvement in shaping future development and reaching planning decisions, through the introduction of Neighbourhood Development Plans. Fylde Council aims to build on this foundation and provide a transparent, user friendly and accessible platform to encourage and maximise public participation.
6. Following the decision by Development Management Committee on the 16 September 2015, the draft updated SCI went out for a seven week consultation. As part of this process four responses were received, which are presented in more detail in Appendix C – Statement of Consultation. Out of the four responses three made no specific comments or objections on the contents of the report with only the Canal and River Trust requesting a slight amendment to the text, which has duly been included. A further suggestion was made by the Housing Services Manager prior to the consultation process to reference Fylde Council's Customer Service Charter, this has also been incorporated as an appendix in the document.
7. The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Amendment) Regulations 2008 and 2009 removed the requirement to notify or consult the Secretary of State in regards to publishing a SCI.

## CONCLUSION

8. The September 2011 SCI is out of date with respect to existing planning legislation. An updated SCI is needed to progress the Local Plan, as the Local Plan could be found to be unsound if the Council do not have an up to date version. An updated SCI has therefore been drafted following a seven week public consultation.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	Production of a SCI is a legal requirement.
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	The SCI protects peoples Human Rights by setting out what they can expect from the consultation process.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There is a risk the emerging Local Plan could be found unsound if we proceeded to formal consultation on our preferred options without updating the SCI.

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**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Statement of Community Involvement	August 2015	<a href="http://www.fylde.gov.uk/council/planning-policy--local-plan-/local-development-framework/statement-community-involvement/">http://www.fylde.gov.uk/council/planning-policy--local-plan-/local-development-framework/statement-community-involvement/</a>

## Attached documents

1. Appendix A: draft Updated Statement of Community Involvement (2015)
2. Appendix B: Schedule of Changes to draft document following consultation Statement of Consultation
3. Appendix C: Statement of Consultation