



Haringey Council

[No 1]

**Cabinet Meeting**

**On 19 February 2008**

Report Title: **Adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable):

Report of: **Niall Bolger, Director of Urban Environment**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to adopt the Statement of Community Involvement following its approval by a Planning Inspector from the Government Office for London, and the incorporation of comments that the Inspector has made.
- 1.2 The Statement sets out the Council's vision and standards for involving the community and other stakeholders in the preparation of planning policy documents and for consultation on planning applications.

### **2. Introduction by Cllr Kaushika Amin, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise**

- 2.1 I am hereby asking my Cabinet colleagues for their approval to adopt the Statement of Community Involvement, as amended.
- 2.2 The Draft has been submitted to the Government Office for London and examined by a Planning Inspector who has recommended that the Statement be adopted subject to small amendments which ensure that the document is up-to-date.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 To adopt the Draft Statement of Community Involvement following the Inspector's recommendations.

**Report Authorised by:** Niall Bolger, Director of Urban Environment

**Signed:**

**Contact Officer:** Eveleen Riordan, Principal Policy Officer, Planning Policy (020) 8489 5132

#### **4. Chief Financial Officer Comments**

4.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Preparation and other costs in respect of adopting the Statement of Community Involvement will be met from either existing or future PPD service approved budgets.

#### **5. Head of Legal Services Comments**

5.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted and agrees with the recommendations. He only wishes to comment that the Statement of Community Involvement is a process for both the Council and developers on qualifying applications to have regard to in future.

#### **6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

6.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- Creating Local Development Frameworks, ODPM 2004
- Community Involvement in Planning, ODPM 2004
- Diversity and Equal Opportunity in Planning 2004
- Haringey's Local Development Scheme 2007
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004
- Planning Policy Statement 12 'Local Development Frameworks', ODPM 2004
- Haringey's Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement, April 2007

#### **7. Strategic Implications**

7.1 The Council adopted its Unitary Development Plan in July 2006. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to replace its existing Unitary Development Plan (UDP) with a new Local Development Framework (LDF). The Council must prepare a Core Strategy to update the key policies and proposals in the Unitary Development Plan.

7.2 One of the key documents within the Local Development Framework is the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Council is required to produce and adopt a Statement of Community Involvement as part of the Council's Local Development Framework. Once adopted, the statement will guide the consultation activities for involving the community and other stakeholders in the preparation of planning policy documents and for consultation on planning applications.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1 Any costs associated with the adoption of the SCI will be contained within existing approved budgets. Furthermore any future cost implications arising from implementing the SCI will also be met within approved service budgets.

## **9. Legal Implications**

- 9.1 The Planning and Purchase Act 2004 introduced a new framework for planning policy development. To meet the requirements of the 'Act', the Council is replacing its Unitary Development Plan (UDP) with a new type of development plan called a Local Development Framework (LDF). This consists of a series of Local Development Documents (LDDs) including the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). SCI provides a framework for public consultation and community engagement during preparation of spatial planning policy documents.

## **10. Equalities Implications**

- 10.1 The Statement of Community Involvement identifies how, when, and at what stage local residents, organisations and other stakeholders can get involved in planning matters. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Council's equal opportunities commitments and priorities, as set out in the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy. The community involvement activities and standards identified in the Statement for adoption have also been based on the principle that different groups and individuals within the community have different needs and requirements for consultation and engagement.

## **11. Consultation**

- 11.1 During preparation, the SCI document has been subject to a six-week statutory consultation period with statutory bodies (Regulation 25) which included adjoining Boroughs, the Highways Agency and the Greater London Authority. At the next stage a draft SCI for public consultation was approved by the Executive on 21 November 2006 and the document was subject to public consultation from 15 January until 26 February 2007 (Regulation 26). The final consultation for Submission stage ran between 25<sup>th</sup> May and the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2007.
- 11.2 The consultation stages have been supported by a number of publicity events and meetings and a focus group.

## **12. Background**

- 12.1 One of the major changes to have emerged from the reforms to the planning system is the emphasis on community involvement. The Statement of Community

Involvement is a public document which sets out the Council's vision and standards for involving the community and other stakeholders in the preparation of planning policy documents and for consultation on planning applications. It identifies how, when, and at what stage local residents, organisations and other stakeholders can get involved. The SCI forms part of the Council's Local Development Framework.

- 12.2 A Member steering group was formed in late 2005 to guide and direct the preparation of the SCI to ensure that the Council produced an appropriate and successful document in accordance with the regulations. There has been extensive internal consultation, a number of community events and presentations to a variety of stakeholder groups before the draft SCI was developed.
- 12.3 In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, the draft SCI has undergone a six-week statutory consultation period from 29 September until 13 November 2006 with statutory bodies which included adjoining Boroughs, the Highways Agency and the Greater London Authority.
- 12.4 This was followed by a public consultation between 15 January until 26 February 2007. The document was then further amended, and a final second stage consultation ran between 25<sup>th</sup> May and the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2007.
- 12.5 The Council submitted its Statement of Community Involvement to the Government Office for London (GOL) for an independent examination by a planning inspector. The Inspector's role is to examine the document, and to consider any comments received as a result of the final stage consultation which ran between May and July 2007.
- 12.6 As part of that examination, the Inspector did not consider it necessary to hold a public inquiry for any of the representations made, but instead considered them in the form of written representations.

### **13. Conclusion**

- 13.1 As part of the recent changes to the planning system, the Council is required to produce and adopt a Statement of Community Involvement as part of the Council's Local Development Framework. Following the production of the document, and the completion of examination by the Planning Inspector, the final Statement of Community Involvement is now ready for adoption.
- 13.2 Once adopted, the statement will guide the consultation activities for involving the community and other stakeholders in the preparation of planning policy documents and for consultation on planning applications.

### **Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs**

- Appendix 1: Statement of Community Involvement for Adoption
- Appendix 2: Schedule of Responses to the Submission Statement of Community Involvement
- Appendix 3: 9 tests of soundness