

**STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS & HOUSING**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR CHARLES SMITH**

**PART A) SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

1.1 The Council is establishing a revised framework for public engagement in planning. Following public consultation on the draft, Cabinet approval is now being sought to formally adopt the Statement of Community Involvement attached at Appendix 1. The adopted Statement of Community Involvement will be used to guide engagement in relation to all planning applications and the preparation of Shaping Places, the new Development Plan.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That Cabinet adopt the Statement of Community Involvement as attached in Appendix 1

**3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	Good engagement will help support action across a range of Council priorities including: Protect and create jobs as a 'Business Supporting, Business Winning Council'; Regenerate those neighbourhoods in need; Work to ensure that local people have access to suitable housing; Ensuring that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The document is important for any stakeholders who wish to engage in planning. The Statement of Community Involvement specifically highlights how the Council will seek to engage with groups who have previously been less involved with planning.
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE</b>	Adopt Statement of Community Involvement in December 2012	
<b>FINANCIAL/ VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	The draft Statement of Community Involvement proposes a number of enhancements to existing planning processes, some of which have a financial implication. A wide range of techniques will be utilised to improve stake holder involvement in the planning process. Whilst some of these communication techniques will add costs it is envisaged that this will be offset by the increased use of an on-line consultation portal. Consultation costs overall should, therefore, be contained within existing budgets. Support to planning applicants will be enhanced through the provision of free pre-application advice for all developments and access to a Strategic Application Workshop service for large development applications. These services will be provided, free of charge to the applicant, by existing officer resources from the appropriate professional teams within the Council. This will impact upon the capacity of these teams to undertake chargeable work and may lead to income shortfalls for these teams. In order to limit the potential budget growth due to income shortfalls it is recommended that the extent of the pre-application service to be provided free of charge is agreed and monitored. Income against targets will be monitored on an ongoing basis and reported as appropriate through the Service and Financial Planning process. JAC 30.11.12

<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	It is a statutory requirement under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for the Council to produce a Statement of Community Involvement.
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Yes	The Statement of Community Involvement will provide greater overall clarity for investors regarding the Council's expectations, setting out how they can engage with planning and reflecting the new streamlined processes pledged in the new Business & Development Charter.
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	No	Borough wide impact.

## **PART B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Council adopted a Statement of Community Involvement in 2006. This needs to be updated to reflect the Council's Co-operative Values and the ways in which the Co-operative Council has updated engagement with stakeholders. It is also important to have an up to date Statement of Community Involvement in place to ensure effective engagement in the preparation of the new Shaping Places Development Plan
- 4.2 The Draft Statement of Community Involvement was agreed by Cabinet in July 2012. This was subject to public consultation between 28 August and 9 October 2012.
- 4.3 The Council received 36 comments in relation to the Statement of Community Involvement. These were from a range of stakeholders including Parish Councils, statutory bodies, a residents association and the general public. The Environment Agency, English Heritage and the Coal Authority also provided advice on how the Council should engage with them as statutory bodies.
- 4.4 The responses have been analysed and a number of changes have been made to the document and also other matters referred to colleagues for further action. Changes proposed to the SCI include adding more detail in relation to neighbourhood planning, adding a diagram illustrating the processes relating to an application for planning permission and adding greater signposting to the Council website. A document setting out the comments received, the Council response and the action taken is available by using the following link:  
[http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/download/1358/statement\\_of\\_community\\_involvement](http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/download/1358/statement_of_community_involvement)
- 4.5 The SCI forms the basis for engagement in planning but all stages of formal engagement in development plan preparation will be developed further. They will be planned in consultation with the corporate Community Engagement and corporate policy Teams in order to maximise the involvement of the community and align with best practice.

### **5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 5.1 One of the comments received during the public consultation emphasised the need to tailor our methods of consultation for different audiences. The Equalities section of the Statement of Community Involvement has been updated to reflect this.
- 5.2 In consultation with the Community Engagement team a summary leaflet has been produced to accompany the final SCI document (See Appendix 2). This has been approved by the Council's Readers Group to ensure it is accessible to all.

### **6. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

<http://apps.telford.gov.uk/demservice/DisplayDocument.asp?type=pdf&ref=14675>

### **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

26 July 2012 Cabinet Report: Statement of Community Involvement – Draft for Consultation

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