

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Policy and Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Physical Environment

**SUBJECT:** Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Local Plan Document

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report seeks the approval of the Executive Board to publish the consultation draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2013 for a four week period of public consultation.
- 1.2 The SCI outlines the standards that the Council will employ to meet the legal requirements for involving the community effectively in the planning system.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) the consultation draft SCI (Appendix A) is approved by Executive Board for the purposes of public consultation for a four week period; and**
- (2) any minor drafting amendments which may be made to the consultation draft SCI prior to public consultation be delegated to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation in consultation with the Executive Board Member, Physical Environment.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Statement of Community Involvement, or SCI, sets out the way the Council will involve the local community, stakeholders and statutory bodies in the preparation and revision of Local Plans. The SCI informs the community about how and when they can get involved. The SCI also describes the council's procedures and arrangements for involving the community when considering planning applications and major proposals for development. The procedures contained with an adopted SCI must be followed for consultation on all Local Plan documents and all planning applications within Halton.

3.2 The council's first SCI was adopted in 2007. It is being updated in 2013 because there have been a number of legislative changes to the way that planning documents are prepared. In addition, technological advances have seen the emergence of online and electronic communication as the preferred media for many individuals and organisations.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The SCI has been produced to ensure that through its function as a Local Planning Authority; the Council is in accordance with National Planning Policy and Regulations.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

No other known implications

#### **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

No legal or financial risks to the Council can be identified so long as the statutory procedures for the preparation of the SCI are met.

Continuing with the original SCI entails minor financial risk as its requirements become increasingly out-of-date and out of step with modern communication practices impeding potential cost savings.

#### **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

No equality and diversity implications have been identified.

#### **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004 as amended) Section 18	Municipal Building	Alasdair Cross
Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012	Municipal Building	Alasdair Cross
Halton Local Development Scheme	Municipal Building	Alasdair Cross