

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 5th September 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Policy and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment

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

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the formal adoption of Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2013 (Appendix A) as part of the Halton Local Plan Framework.
- 1.2 Propose responses to representations made and amendments to the text of the SCI to accommodate these representations, where appropriate (Appendix B).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the Statement of Community Involvement (Appendix A) be adopted as a Local Plan Document and the procedures for adoption, as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) regulations be carried out;**
- 2) the results of the public consultation, as set out in the Statement of Consultation (Appendix B) are noted; and**
- 3) further editorial and technical changes that do not materially affect the content or intended purpose of the SCI be agreed by the Operational Director, Policy, Planning and Transportation in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the Physical Environment if necessary, before the document is published.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Draft Statement of Community Involvement was approved for the purposes of public consultation by the Executive Board on 23rd May 2013 for a period of four weeks from 4th July to 1st August 2013. It was resolved that the results of the public consultation exercise and the revised SCI be reported back to the Executive Board to consider its adoption as part of the Local Plan. The 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. Once adopted the procedures contained in 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 2006. 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

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

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004 as amended) Section 18 | Planning & Transport Strategy, Municipal Building | Alasdair Cross |
| Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 | Planning & Transport Strategy, Municipal Building | Alasdair Cross |
| Halton Local Development Scheme | Planning & Transport Strategy, Municipal Building | Alasdair Cross |