

14 MUNICIPAL YEAR 2005/2006 REPORT NO. 348

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Cabinet 26.04.06
Council 28.06.06

REPORT OF:

Director of Environment, Street
Scene and Parks

Agenda – Part: 1	Item: 14
Subject: Statement of Community Involvement	
Wards: All	
Cabinet Member consulted: Councillor Neville	

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks the endorsement of Council for Enfield's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out how the community will be involved in the preparation and revision of the Local Development Documents, that will form the Local Development Framework (LDF) and in the consideration of planning applications. The SCI has undergone independent examination and can now proceed to adoption. Copies of the final version, incorporating the Inspector's binding recommendations, have been placed in the Members' library and Group Offices.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council adopt the SCI.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In 2004 the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduced major changes to the town planning system. 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), which will consist of a series of Local Development Documents (LDDs) including the SCI.
- 3.2 . As part of the preparation of the SCI the Council carried out consultation with the community and stakeholders. The draft SCI was informed by the results of a questionnaire to the Enfield Citizens' Panel undertaken in November 2004. The draft SCI was prepared in consultation with community groups, stakeholders, the Planning Committee and the Conservation Advisory Group and was approved by Cabinet for the first stage of public consultation on 25th May 2005. The results of consultation on the draft SCI were presented to the Environment, Parks and Amenities Scrutiny Panel for consideration at their meeting on 6th September 2005. Representations made on the draft SCI and the comments of the Scrutiny Panel were then taken into account during the preparation of a revised SCI.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 28th September 2005, Council approved the revised SCI for submission to the First Secretary of State. The SCI was submitted to the First Secretary of State in October 2005 to undergo independent examination by an appointed Inspector.

4. CONSULTATION ON THE SUBMISSION STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 4.1 The final stage of public consultation commenced following the submission of the SCI to independent examination and expired on 16th November 2005. In total 17 letters of representation were received on the Submission SCI from community groups, statutory bodies, private organisations, a neighbouring local authority and the Conservation Advisory Group. A summary and analysis of these representations can be found in the Representations Statement, copies of which have been placed in the Members' library and Group Offices. The Representations Statement was submitted to the First Secretary of State in November 2005 for consideration as part of the examination.

5. THE EXAMINATION AND INSPECTOR'S BINDING REPORT

- 5.1 The organisations that commented on Enfield's Submission SCI chose not to exercise their right to be heard at the examination. The examination therefore proceeded under the written representations procedure. The SCI was considered against the 9 tests of soundness, set out in the Government's Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12).
- 5.2 The Inspector's binding report, received on 10th March 2006, concluded that Enfield's Submission SCI was sound, subject to minor amendment in accordance with the recommendations set out. Copies of the Inspector's report have been placed in the Members' library and Group Offices.
- 5.3 In order to ensure that the SCI shows how the results of community involvement will be fed into the preparation of LDF documents, the Inspector recommended minor amendments to the SCI to clarify that:
- the results of consultation will be taken into account during the preparation of LDDs
 - Consultation Statements, explaining how the results of community involvement have informed the content of documents, will accompany documents submitted to independent examination
 - the role of officers and members in decision making is set out in Enfield's Local Development Scheme (LDS).
- 5.4 In addition, amendments to the list of consultees were recommended to reflect the transfer of the Post Office to Royal Mail Holdings and the abolition of the Strategic Rail Authority. Finally, it was recommended that the SCI be amended to clarify that the Council will consult additional consultation bodies not contained on the LDF database, as appropriate.

6. FINAL STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 Copies of the final version of the SCI, incorporating the Inspector's recommendations, have been placed in the Members' library and Group Offices. The Council is required to adopt the SCI as soon as practicable after the Inspector's binding report has been received. From then on the Council must comply with the adopted SCI when preparing LDDs. Inspectors in testing Development Plan Documents (DPDs) will determine whether the Council has done so.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 The adoption of the SCI is a statutory requirement.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To comply with Government regulations and Enfield's Local Development Scheme (LDS).

9. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

9.1 Financial Implications

Specific budgetary provision for the preparation of the LDF, together with general staff and support budgets will accommodate the cost of implementing the SCI.

9.2 Legal Implications

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 received royal assent and became law on 13 May 2004. The Commencement Order formally initiating the new plan making system came into operation on 28th September 2004. Part 2 of the Act requires the Council to produce and adopt an SCI. The SCI must be produced in accordance with Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

9.3 Property Implications

There are no specific property implications

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

This project will contribute to the delivery of Objective 1f (i - v) of the Council's Improvement Plan 2005 – 2008.

11. PUTTING ENFIELD FIRST

- 11.1 The preparation of the LDF accords with Objective 1(f) of Aim 1 of Putting Enfield First- "A Cleaner, Greener Enfield" and Objectives 6(a) and 6(e) of Aim 6, "Economically Successful and Socially Inclusive".

Background Papers

Creating Local Development Frameworks ODPM 2004

Enfield's Local Development Scheme LBE 2005

A Framework for assessing the soundness and focusing representations on
Statement of Community Involvement PINS 2005

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Planning Policy Statement 12 "Local Development Frameworks" ODPM 2004

The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004

Statements of Community Involvement and Planning Applications ODPM 2004