

CITY COUNCIL-25 JUNE 2007

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSFORMING NEIGHBOURHOODS

ADOPTION OF THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR PLANNING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 As a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the City Council must prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for planning applications and planning documents, setting out how the Council will involve the local community and other interested parties when carrying out its planning functions.
- 1.2 On 7th August 2006, a Submission Draft SCI was submitted to the Secretary of State for the purposes of independent examination by a Planning Inspector. The Inspector's Report has now been received and provides specific recommendations on how the SCI must be amended. These amendments comprise mainly minor detailed changes. Under the provision of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Report issued by the Inspector is binding on the City Council and any recommended changes must be made before the SCI can be adopted by City Council. A full copy of the revised SCI, containing the amendments recommended by the Planning Inspector, has been circulated separately to Members.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 IT IS RECOMMENDED that City Council notes the amendments outlined in the Planning Inspector's binding report and adopts the revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) circulated separately to members.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The SCI sets out Nottingham City Council's policy for involving communities in the preparation of planning documents and in considering applications for planning permission.
- 3.2 The Submission Draft of the SCI was approved by the Executive Board at the meeting of 20th June 2006. The Submission Draft SCI was then formally submitted to the Secretary of State on 7th August 2006 to allow an independent examination to be held on the document. At the same time, the Submission Draft SCI was also subject to a 6-week period of public consultation which ended on 18th September 2006. This was the third and final public consultation exercise on the SCI. All valid representations received during this period had the right to be considered at an independent examination.
- 3.3 In total, 67 representations were received from 26 respondents during the consultation period on the Submission Draft SCI. Of these, 5 respondents were objecting to the SCI, and of these, 1 respondent wished to present their case at a public hearing and the remaining 4 respondents wished to have their representations considered as written representations. The majority of objections received during the Submission Draft consultation period related to detailed planning applications that had been made in the past and none significantly queried the whole approach of the SCI. In response to the comments received, suggested amendments were proposed by City Council officers, which did not look to alter the substance of the SCI, but sought to improve clarity of the document. These changes were sent to the Planning Inspector to be considered during the course of the examination (please refer to the List of Background Papers Section at the end of this report to obtain copies of these changes if required).
- 3.4 The independent examination was held by a Planning Inspector appointed by the government. The Inspector assessed whether the document was 'sound' (i.e. fit for purpose), using the nine Tests of Soundness as defined by the Planning Inspectorate, and also taking into account the representations received during the Submission Draft consultation. A one-day Hearing session was also held at the National Ice Centre on 12th December 2006.

3.5 The Inspector's Report was received in January 2007 (please refer to the List of Published Documents Section at the end of this report to obtain a copy of the Inspector's Report if required). In summary, the Inspector concluded that, subject to a number of detailed revisions set out in his report, the SCI was sound. These changes mainly comprised the changes proposed by officers as noted in paragraph 3.3 above, along with 7 new revisions put forward by the Inspector. None of the revisions recommended by the Inspector have any significant material impact on the City Council's proposals for community involvement.

3.6 Once adopted, the SCI will form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the City Council must adhere to it when carrying out its planning functions. A copy of the revised SCI (incorporating all the necessary amendments) has been circulated to members and is available to access via the Council's website.

4 PROPOSALS

4.1 The Inspector's binding report makes a number of changes to the SCI. These are minor in nature and are intended to improve the clarity of the document. All of the changes that are proposed by the Inspector have been incorporated into the revised version of the SCI attached to this report. It is recommended that the changes be noted and that the revised SCI be adopted accordingly.

4.2 The timing of adoption of the SCI will be in accordance with that set out in the City Council's Local Development Scheme 2007.

5 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- Schedule of Changes Following the Statement of Community Involvement Examination (Nottingham City Council, June 2007). Available from the Policy and Information Team, Nottingham City Council.

6 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- Inspector's Report, Nottingham City Council, Statement of Community Involvement (The Planning Inspectorate, 5th January 2007).

Available at: -

http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/sitemap/services/environment/planning/cd_planning-policy-ldf/cd_planning-statementofcommunityinvolvement.htm

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