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	London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham COUNCIL 23 OCTOBER 2013
STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING: ADOPTION OF DOCUMENT	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Technical Services: Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler	
Open Report	
Classification - For Decision Key Decision: No	
Wards Affected: All	
Accountable Executive Director: Nigel Pallace, Executive Director Transport and Technical Services	
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Every local planning authority must prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which is seen by the government as a means of improving the quality of the planning process through greater community involvement.
- 1.2 The Council's SCI dates from 2006, since when a number of changes to planning legislation, national guidance and local practices have made it necessary to review and revise the document.
- 1.3 The revised SCI has been prepared under the terms of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and has taken into account more recent legislation including the Localism Act 2011, the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

- 1.4 The revised SCI was subject to public consultation for 6 weeks commencing in May 2013. The next stage in the SCI process is adoption by full Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the revised Statement of Community Involvement in Planning (see Appendix 2) be adopted by the Council.

3. THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 3.1 The purpose of the SCI is to explain how and when the community can be involved in the preparation of planning policy documents (such as the Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents) and in the consideration of planning applications, including pre-application proposals and appeals.
- 3.2 The revised SCI builds upon the 2006 document and received comments from 13 organisations and individuals during public consultation. These comments are included in Appendix 1 of this report in the schedule of representations and officers' responses (see Appendix 1).
- 3.3 The representations were generally supportive of the SCI and the Council's proposals for community engagement. However, some representations, mainly on points of clarification rather than principle, have led to minor and technical changes of wording. In particular, further detail has been provided on consultation on planning applications to help involve people in decision making.
- 3.4 Because there is no requirement for independent examination of the SCI, following consideration of the representations that have been received the Council can proceed to adopt the document which is set out in Appendix 2 of this report.

4. POST SCI ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 After adoption, it will be necessary under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 to make the SCI and other documents supporting the SCI available for inspection and to publish these on the council's website. The council must also make an adoption statement available and notify any person who requested to be notified of the publication of the adoption of the SCI. The adoption statement must be sent to the Secretary of State.

5. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The costs of adoption will be met from within existing revenue budgets in Transport and Technical Services.
- 5.2 Implications verified/completed by: Gary Hannaway, Head of Finance (Environment), ext 6071.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The SCI is a local development document and as such its preparation and adoption is governed by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and regulations made by the Secretary of State. The post adoption requirements are set out at paragraph 3.1 of the report. The revised SCI will replace the 2006 SCI. In preparing future local development documents (such as revisions to the Council's Local Plan or SPD), the Council must comply with the SCI (s.19(3) of the 2004 Act).
- 6.2 The adoption of the SCI must be by resolution of the full Council.
- 6.3 Implications verified/completed by: Alex Russell, ext 2771.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The subject of the report is not included on a departmental or corporate risk register.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The SCI actively takes into account the different needs of people and groups with protected characteristics, as well as the three aims of the public sector equality duty (PSED). For example, in developing an SPD, the Council will endeavour to provide the opportunity to take part in consultation on draft SPDs to all community groups including those that are more likely to be under-represented in public life such as women, disabled people, and BME groups.
- 8.2 More generally, the SCI aims to capture diverse needs when officers are consulting, in order to capture as much as possible at the start of consultations and development of policies.
- 8.3 Because the SCI captures the needs of different groups all the way through with the aim of ensuring that the PSED is addressed in our business activity, an EIA is not necessary.
- 8.4 When officers use the SCI to develop policy, EIAs may be needed as and when appropriate to the decision in hand at a later date.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	Representations received during consultation from May to July 2013.	T. Harvey ext 3039	TTSD. Hammersmith Town Hall Extension
CONTACT OFFICER: Pat Cox		NAME: EXT. ext 5773	