

**Report of:** Planning Services Business Manager

**To:** Executive Board – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2006  
Council – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006

**Item No:**

**Title of Report :** Statement of Community Involvement



### Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To adopt the Statement of Community Involvement

**Key decision:** No



**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr John Goddard



**Scrutiny Responsibility:** Environment

**Ward(s) affected:** All



#### Report Approved by

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr John Goddard

**Legal:** Lindsay Cane

**Finance:** David King

**Strategic Director:** Sharon Cosgrove



**Policy Framework:** The production of this document fulfils a commitment of the Local Development Scheme. It will support the City Council's vision by improving the environment where we live and work.



#### Recommendation(s):

That Executive Board recommends Council to adopt the Statement of Community Involvement (as the Inspector's Report is binding on the City Council).

That Council adopt the Statement of Community Involvement (as the Inspector's Report is binding on the City Council).



## **Summary**

1. In January and February 2006 Executive Board and Council considered the draft Statement of Community Involvement before submission to the Secretary of State for Examination. The document was then submitted and underwent a statutory 6-week consultation. The binding Inspector's report was received on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006. The report is available on the City Council's website: [www.oxford.gov.uk/SCI](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/SCI)
2. The purpose of this report is to consider changes made to the Statement of Community Involvement as a result of the Inspector's report, and to adopt the Statement.
3. The Executive Board is asked to recommend that Council adopt the Statement. Council is asked to adopt the Statement.

## **Background and context**

4. The new planning system introduced under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 replaces local plans with a local development framework. A local development framework is similar to a local plan in that it will detail policies and proposals to guide development in Oxford. However, whilst the local plans were produced as one large document, the local development framework will consist of a series of documents. This change of format means that the plans are more flexible and can be more responsive to changes in Oxford as each document can be amended or updated over time, as required.
5. The Statement of Community Involvement is one of the documents within the local development framework. It will be the first City Council document to be adopted under the new system. Once it is adopted, the soundness of other documents in the local development framework will be judged partly according to whether the consultation followed the methods set out in the Statement.

## **The Statement of Community Involvement**

6. The Statement of Community Involvement shows how the City Council intends to involve the community in the preparation and review of planning policy documents. It identifies the different community groups that need to be involved in the planning process and it outlines the various techniques that the City Council intends to use to involve them effectively. The document shows that different techniques are likely to be suitable for different stages of consultation, and for consultation on different types of documents. The Statement of Community Involvement also sets out methods of consultation for planning applications and shows how the requirements of the regulations will exceed the statutory minimum (as set out in the table on page 26 of the document). It will also act as a guide for developers on how they should consult when they propose a major development and it will enable the community to know how and when they can be involved in the planning process.

7. An Examination of the draft Statement was held by an independent Inspector. The Examination was based on written representations as no objectors requested a hearing. The purpose of the Examination was to test whether the Statement is 'sound'. The soundness of the Statement was tested against a number of criteria. Only eight minor changes were put forward in the Inspector's Report, and these are highlighted in the revised Statement attached as Appendix A. The Inspector's Report is binding on the City Council.

### **The next stages**

8. Once adopted by Council, the Statement will become part of the local development framework, and the soundness of other documents in the local development framework will be judged partly according to whether the consultation followed the methods set out in the Statement.

### **Appendices**

9. A – Statement of Community Involvement showing Inspector's changes.

**Name and contact details of author:** Sarah Harrison, 252718,  
[SBHarrison@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:SBHarrison@oxford.gov.uk)

**Background papers:** Inspector's Report

