

SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 19 October 2005

Part I

Portfolio Holder: Transportation and Development

Agenda

Report From: Strategic Director Customer Services

Item
No:

--

Report Author: Alastair McNeill, Development Plans Team

Report Title: Statement of Community Involvement (July 2005) - Regulation 26 Consultation and Proposed Changes

Summary

This report outlines the response to formal public participation on the Council's Revised Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), July 2005, and sets out proposed changes to the document. A copy of the SCI incorporating proposed changes accompanies the agenda.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet approve the proposed changes to the Draft Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix B, and agree the revised Draft Statement of Community Involvement (Submission Draft), to be submitted to the Secretary of State under Reg 28 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Regulations) 2004.

Report

1 Background

- 1.1 The new planning system requires the South Lakeland Local Plan to be replaced by a Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will set out policies to protect the district's important environmental assets and guide the location and quality of new development.
- 1.2 The new system emphasises early engagement with the community and stakeholders in preparing an LDF. It requires the Council to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) setting out how it intends to consult the community on planning matters. The Town and Country Planning Regulations 2004 set out the minimum requirements for consulting on the various LDF documents, including the SCI, at each stage in their preparation.

2 Early Consultation – Regulation 25

- 2.1 The Council consulted on a first draft SCI in July/August 2004. Council considered the comments and approved amendments on 26 October 2004. To comply with regulations (published September 2004), those listed in Appendix A were also consulted in early 2005. Only the Highways Agency responded, and submitted it's response again at Reg 26 stage.

3. Formal Public Participation – Regulation 26

- 3.1 The SCI was redrafted in late Spring 2005, taking account of responses at the Reg 25 stage and policy and guidance subsequently published by ODPM (PPS12 and Companion Guide). The Portfolio Holder Planning Advisory Group considered and modified the document prior to Public Participation under Reg. 26 in July/August 2005. Reg 26 consultation included: -
 - Posting or emailing the document to those on the LDF consultee database.
 - Placing the document on the Council's website, with the results of the Reg 25 consultation and Council report of 26 October 2004.
 - Placing the document for inspection at Councils offices (Kendal and Ulverston) and at libraries at Arnsdale, Kendal, Kirkby Lonsdale, Milnthorpe, Grange and Ulverston.

- Placing a press notice in the Westmorland Gazette and North West Evening Mail.

Consultees had opportunity to comment by post, email or online via a web response form.

4 Response and Proposed Changes

- 4.1 A detailed schedule of comments and proposed changes is set out in Appendix B. A summary of the consultation response, the main issues and how it is proposed to address them is set out in Appendix C. The proposed changes to the SCI have been considered and agreed by the Portfolio Holder Planning Advisory Group at its meeting on 19 September 2005. This Group was established following Cabinet approval to provide a member endorsement of the LDF process at the interim preparation stages.

Cabinet is asked to approve the schedule of changes to the SCI in Appendix B and the submission of the revised document to Secretary of State in November 2005 for independent examination. After submission there will be a further 6-week period for formal objection to the SCI, based on the 'tests of soundness' set out in PPS 12. If required, an independent examination is provisionally planned for May 2006. The Inspector's report will be binding on the Council. Adoption of the final SCI by the Council is anticipated in September 2006.

Alternative Options

Cabinet can reject the changes to the SCI, although this will compromise the ability of the Council to meet the LDF programme set out in the Local Development Scheme & agreed with Government.

Key Decision

This report does not relate to a Key Decision

Material Considerations

Finance/Risk

Revenue costs will be met from within the Planning Service budget or Planning Delivery Grant. There are no direct risks arising from this report.

Staffing

Existing staff will undertake the additional work arising from the SCI at this stage

Sustainability

The SCI is a procedural document and does not have registered significant environmental effects. However sustainability will be a key guiding principle of the forthcoming LDF.

Links to Corporate Plan

The SCI is part of the Key Target 4.1a & Key Action 2, to prepare a Local Development Framework

Links to Other Strategic Plan(s)

SCI is an objective in the Council's improvement plan, part of its Community Engagement Strategy.

Equalities & Diversity

The SCI and proposed changes seek to address equalities and diversity in proposed consultation.

Community Safety

There are no implications for community safety.

Background Documents

Document: Statement of Community Involvement
(Submission Draft) November 2005

Contact: Alastair McNeill, Development Plans
Team

Date: 10/11/2005

Version No:

Amended by: