

Item no.



District of **easington.**

Report to: Executive
Date: 30th August 2005
Report of: Executive Member for Environment & Transport
Subject: Council's response to Draft Statements of Community Involvement from Sunderland City Council, Durham County Council and Hartlepool Borough Council.
Ward: All

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The Council has received for consideration Draft Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) from the following local planning authorities: Sunderland City Council, Durham County Council, and Hartlepool Borough Council. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the comments to the Draft SCIs.

2. Consultation

2.1 The Director of Regeneration and Development has been consulted and support the proposals recommended in this report.

3. Background

3.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement as part of their new Local Development Frameworks (LDF).

3.2 The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 require authorities to consult with neighbouring authorities. The District of Easington has boundaries with City of Sunderland and Hartlepool Borough and is the reason for the consultation. The Regulations also state that all relevant authorities should be consulted and is the reason for the consultation from County Durham.

4. Position Statement and Option Appraisal

Durham County Council

4.1 The Draft SCI proposes an accessible system with clear and formal approaches to participation which reaches out to groups that have not, historically, easily engaged with the planning system. Information about plans and policies affecting the County will be readily available, in a form that is easy to understand and encourages participation. As the County Council will be consulting residents of the District of Easington it is considered that members should support the proposed system. The Statement also

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indicated that following each stage of consultation the County Council intends to summarise all comments received and give details of their response and any resultant changes. It is considered that the Executive should also support the proposed accountability system.

- 4.2 The Statement outlines the proposed methods for consulting the public/organisations. Paragraph 1.11 makes reference to the Local Strategic Partnerships of the seven district/borough councils. In order to avoid 'consultation fatigue' shared consultations between County Durham and District of Easington should be carried out wherever possible.
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- 4.3 Hartlepool Borough intend to co-ordinate consultation activity through it's Corporate Consultation Strategy. District of Easington support this approach and hope that the District's consultation with Hartlepool Borough can also share this activity.
- 4.4 Consultation via letter and e-mail from Hartlepool Borough is welcomed.
- City of Sunderland
- 4.5 Appendix 1 of the SCI for Sunderland sets out the principles of the Community Consultation Framework. The framework sets out the principles which should be applied to any consultation which is carried out by the Council and it is considered that the Executive should support these principles.
- 4.6 Paragraph 3.18 outlines how Sunderland City Council will consult the District of Easington as they produce their LDF. Sunderland propose to hold informal discussions and meetings with the Council as well as communicate through letters and draft document publication. Paragraph 3.19 states that the City of Sunderland will prepare a summary of written comments and feedback after each consultation exercise. Should the Council provide any comments then they will receive feedback. It is considered that the Executive should support the proposed consultation and feedback methods.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial

There are no financial implications.

5.2 Legal

There are no legal implications.

5.3 Policy

There are no policy implications.

5.4 Risk

There are no risk implications.

5.5 Communications

The Council's response to the draft SCIs will be reported back to the relevant authorities using the comment sheets provided.

6. Corporate Implications

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6.1 Corporate Plan and Priorities

There are no corporate plan and priority implications.

6.2 Equality and Diversity

There are no equality or diversity implications.

6.3 E-Government

There are no E-Government implications.

6.4 Procurement

There are no procurement implications.

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that:-

the comments outlined in the report in Section 4 be agreed and relayed back to the relevant authorities via the response forms provided within the six week consultation deadline.

Background Papers/Documents referred to:

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

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