

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 7 June 2006)

1. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI) (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 8)

As part of the new Local Development Framework, (LDF) that will eventually replace the Local Plan, the Council is required to produce a document called a Statement of Community Involvement. This document sets out how the Council will involve people and organisations in preparing its LDF, and when dealing with planning applications.

The Statement of Community Involvement has been prepared in three stages.

The Pre-Production stage began in the early spring and included two focus groups that examined issues of community involvement in the planning process. These were well attended by representatives of 30 organisations including town & parish councils, local businesses, agents, amenity societies, statutory consultees, councillors and officers. The feedback and ideas from the groups were excellent and informed the drafting of the SCI, and also provided the concept for the drafting of an "Easy-Read" summary document.

Once an early draft document was produced, it was circulated to a number of statutory consultees including town and parish councils, adjoining councils, the regional assembly and the National Park Authority. Some limited comments were received at this stage.

Some revisions were made to the documents, and they were then published for a period of public consultation from 30th June to 12th August 2005. A total of 40 representations were received at this stage. The document was then revised and submitted to the Secretary of State in October 2005, with a further representation period running until December 2005. A total of 30 representations were received at submission stage, 18 objections and 12 in support.

The Secretary of State appointed an Inspector to examine the soundness of the SCI. Under the new planning system, his report is binding on the Council. In overall terms the Inspector has concluded that this Council's Statement of Community Involvement is sound. The Inspector made a number of minor recommendations that mainly endorsed changes proposed by the Council during the examination.

The Cabinet has considered the report and the issues raised by the examination and agreed that the Inspector's report is uncontentious and should be accepted and the Statement of Community Involvement adopted.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That the Inspector's report as detailed in Annex 1 to Report C to the Cabinet be accepted; and*

- (b) *That the Statement of Community Involvement, as amended by the Inspector, be adopted.*

2. CHANGES TO EXISTING DELEGATIONS – COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE (REPORT G) (MINUTE NO. 12)

Following the secondment of the Head of Policy, Design and Information to the National Park Authority there has been a number of structural changes within the Community Services Directorate. As a result the Cabinet has amended and updated the scheme of delegation of powers to officers to reflect the new structures. Listed below are further changes that are within the control of the Council that the Cabinet is recommending should be made.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That all those powers within the control of the Council that are currently delegated to the Head of Policy, Design and Information be delegated also to the Head of Planning and the Planning Policy Manager;*
- (b) *That all those powers within the control of the Council that are currently delegated to the Head of Development Control be now delegated to the Head of Planning and the Development Control Manager;*
- (c) *That all those powers within the control of the Council that are currently delegated to the Tree Team Leader and Conservation and Urban Design Team Leader be delegated to the Environmental Design Manager and the Assistant Director of Leisure Services (Services Development); and*
- (d) *That all other job titles be updated to reflect the new structure.*

3. PERFORMANCE MATTERS : PERFORMANCE PLAN 2006/07 (REPORT D) (MINUTE NO. 9)

The Cabinet has considered matters concerning the Council's 2006/07 Performance Plan, including proposed changes, arrangements for approval, and performance indicator schedules by Portfolio.

The Council has a legal obligation to publish a performance plan. Over the last few years the Plan has continued to develop and improve the way the Council reports their overall performance to the public and partners. The Performance Plan is an important part of the Council's Performance Management process and enables members to challenge performance and drive the process of continuous improvement.

The "traffic light" system has been used to help identify areas of good or improving performance, and areas that warrant further examination. Members noted that a red light did not necessarily indicate poor performance, but areas that may need particular examination.

The Council will consider the complete Performance Plan at their meeting in June.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the proposals to continue the current format for the 2006/07 Performance Plan as set out in section 2.6 of Report D to the Cabinet be approved;**
- (b) That the proposed developments for the performance plan as set out in section 3 of Report D to the Cabinet be approved; and**
- (c) That it be noted that there were no changes arising from the discussion at the Cabinet meeting to be made to the proposed targets for the Council's Best Value and local set of Indicators.**

**Cllr M J Kendal
CHAIRMAN**

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