

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

22 June 2005

Report of the Director of Planning & Transportation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Summary

The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (Submission Draft, December 2004) has been approved by the Planning Inspectorate subject to some minor changes. The amended document is now presented for consideration by Cabinet with a recommendation for adoption by full Council.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Statement of Community Involvement is a statutory document that sets out the Council's strategy for community involvement in the planning process. It outlines how the Council plans to establish common ground with the community, promoting consensus on the form and content of the Local Development Documents that will be produced to form the Local Development Framework and how the community will be involved when the Council receives major planning applications.

1.1.2 The Statement of Community Involvement (Submission Draft) was approved by Council on the 14th December 2004, and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration on 31st December 2004 in line with the then draft Local Development Scheme. Tonbridge & Malling Council was the first authority in the country to submit their Statement of Community Involvement. The Planning Inspectorate carried out an independent examination in accordance with the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act and concluded that the Council's submitted Statement of Community Involvement, subject to some minor changes, is sound. The Inspector's recommendations are binding.

1.2 Changes to the Statement of Community Involvement

1.2.1 There are 9 tests of 'soundness' that are used to assess the document. The changes are set out below:

- 1) Additional clarification is needed regarding the links between the Core Strategy and other Development Plan Documents. Add the following sentence to paragraph 6.4

“The Development Plan Documents are complementary Documents and consultation responses will therefore be used in a comprehensive manner so that the integrity of the relationship between the various documents is maintained”.

- 2) Figures 1 and 2 on page 7 of the document detail the variety of consultation methods proposed. The table in figure 1 is to be altered to restrict the use of “Planning for Real” exercises to the Central Tonbridge Area Action Plan only.

- 3) On the issue of reporting back, the following is to be added after paragraph 10.1 as follows:

“10.2 The consultation procedures used by the Council detailed in this SCI will be kept under review. Where the procedures prove to be unsuccessful or where revised procedures are needed to meet new circumstances, a formal review of the SCI and re-submission to the Secretary of State will be undertaken”.

1.2.2 The Inspector concluded that subject to the above amendments the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement (December 2004) is sound and can be adopted.

1.3 Recommendation

1.3.1 In light of the comments received in the Inspector’s Report, the Statement of Community Involvement **BE AMENDED** as required and the amended document be adopted by the Council.

Background papers:

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Statement of Community Involvement
(Submission Draft, December 2004)

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Director of Planning & Transportation