

Subject: Revised Statement of Community Involvement
Meeting date: 14 October 2019
Report to: Planning Committee
Report of: Tom Cardis, Interim Assistant Director of Planning

For recommendation

This report will be considered in public

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks Planning Committee's comment on amendments to the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation's (OPDC) revised draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) following public consultation, and recommendation that OPDC Board publish the draft SCI.

2 Recommendations

The Planning Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 **Comment on the amended Revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (Appendix A)**
- 2.2 **Recommend that OPDC Board agree to publish the SCI (Appendix A); and**
- 2.3 **Agree to delegate to the Interim Assistant Director of Planning in consultation with the chair of planning committee, the making of any minor modifications to the SCI, in advance of Board considering the publication of the SCI.**

3 Revised Draft Statement of Community Involvement

Role and background

- 3.1 The participation of local people in planning the regeneration and redevelopment of Old Oak and Park Royal is central to the future success of the area.
- 3.2 The production of an SCI is a legal requirement. The SCI sets out OPDC's commitments for how and when OPDC will consult communities in the process of planning for the Old Oak and Park Royal area, both in producing planning policy and in carrying out its development management functions. The SCI is not a 'development plan document' and is therefore not subject to examination. However, production of the SCI is a statutory requirement, and the information set out in the SCI places requirements on OPDC and those submitting planning applications.
- 3.3 In February 2017, OPDC Board approved and published OPDC's current SCI. Through Policy DI3 of the Local Plan, OPDC has committed to reviewing and, where relevant and appropriate, revising the SCI every two years. In addition to this commitment, updated requirements for the preparation of SCIs were introduced as part of the 2017 Neighbourhood Planning Act, which necessitated an update to OPDC's current SCI.
- 3.4 A revised draft SCI, addressing the requirements of the 2017 Neighbourhood Planning Act and incorporating a series of other updates was initially considered by Planning Committee in February 2019. A second revised draft SCI, reflecting comments raised by members at their February meeting, was considered by Committee in April 2019 where it was agreed to publish the document for public consultation.

Overview of public consultation and proposed changes

- 3.5 The draft revised Statement of Community Involvement was published for consultation on 13 June until 26 July 2019. The public consultation was twin tracked with public consultation on OPDC's draft Engagement Strategy, which addresses OPDC's wider non-local planning authority community engagement matters. Consultation responses relating to the Engagement Strategy will be published as part of a separate Engagement Strategy consultation report prior to consideration by OPDC Board.
- 3.6 Four responses were received to the draft revised SCI consultation, providing forty six individual comments. The four respondents comprised:
- Two community organisations (Old Oak Neighbourhood Forum and Grand Union Alliance)
 - One strategic stakeholder (Canal and River Trust)

- One private landowner (Raban Management Ltd)
- 3.7 OPDC has prepared a Statement of Consultation (Appendix B) which presents all comments received on the draft revised SCI, alongside officer response to these comments stating whether or not the comment has resulted in a change.
- 3.8 A summary of the main issue themes raised through the consultation, and OPDC's response to these issues, is set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of main issues themes

Issue Theme	OPDC Response
OPDC has not satisfied the principles set out in the SCI in relation to early community involvement and for and choosing between options in the preparation of its draft Local Plan.	Changes are proposed to clarify that only reasonable alternatives can be considered for Sustainability Appraisals used to assess policy documents, and to emphasise the need for formative community involvement in this process.
The SCI should provide further details of the content and scope of other OPDC planning documents, strategies and programmes.	No changes are proposed. It is not the role of the SCI to define the role and content of other planning documents, strategies and programmes.
Further rationale should be set out for why the scheme of delegation for planning applications was put in place, and whether it may be revisited.	No changes are proposed. While the SCI sets out details of the scheme of delegation for information purposes, it is not the role of the SCI to set out the rationale for this, or the circumstances in which it may be revisited.
Further commitments should be provided on OPDC's support for Neighbourhood Planning, and to go beyond minimum requirements for statutory consultations.	Changes proposed. Additional wording has been introduced to the SCI which places a stronger emphasis on OPDC's support for neighbourhood planning and intentions to use best endeavours to go beyond minimum requirements for community involvement.
The role of specific strategic stakeholders, and the need for developers to consult with these, should be highlighted in the SCI.	No changes proposed. The SCI's role is to set out how OPDC involves, and expects applicants to involve, the community in deciding planning applications and preparing planning guidance, rather than all stakeholders. This is addressed through legislation, and referenced in the SCI.
Further material on viability assessments and draft heads of terms should be made public or published at an earlier stage at	No changes proposed. OPDC's approach to publishing viability assessments reflects national guidance. Draft Heads of Terms are published at the earliest possible stage, but it

planning application stage.	is not always possible to do so prior to submission of planning application as some matters are still subject to discussion and agreement.
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- 3.9 In addition to the issue themes in Table 1, a series of minor amendments have also been in response to consultation comments so as to improve clarity and to correct references to other documents.

Next Steps

- 3.10 Subject to agreement by Planning Committee, the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement will be considered by OPDC Board at their meeting on the 21st November, alongside OPDC's draft Engagement Strategy. If approved by OPDC Board, the revised Statement of Community Involvement and Engagement Strategy will be published on the OPDC website.

4 Equality Comments

- 4.1 The public sector equality duty requires the identification and evaluation of the likely potential impacts, both positive and negative, of the decision on those with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation).
- 4.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the SCI (see appendix C) in which no negative impacts have been identified, with positive impacts for those covered by four of the protected characteristics.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Any subsequent financial implications arising from this report are subject to the Corporation's decision-making process.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a local planning authority to prepare a statement of community involvement.
- 6.2 This is a statement of the authority's policy as to the involvement in the exercise of the authority's planning functions of people who appear to the authority to have an interest in matters relating to development in their area.
- 6.3 A statement of community involvement must set out the local planning authority's policies for giving advice or assistance on:
- (a) proposals for making neighbourhood development orders, and
 - (b) proposals for modification of neighbourhood development plans.

6.4 The statement of community involvement is not a development plan document in the local development scheme.

Appendices

Appendix A: Final revised draft Statement of Community Involvement (track changed version showing amendments following public consultation)

Appendix B: Statement of Community Involvement – Statement of Consultation

Appendix C: Equalities Impact Assessment

Background Papers

None

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