

Executive

4 December 2009

Report of **Head of Planning Services**

Report No. 78/09

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All

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Recommendations

1. *Executive notes the representations received and approves the Statement of Community Involvement incorporating the changes set out in appendix 1 to this report.*

Purpose of report

1. To advise Executive of the responses received to the draft Statement of Community Involvement and seek approval of the final document. A Statement of Community Involvement explains the process and methods for community involvement in the preparation of local development documents and the determination of planning applications.

Relationship with corporate plan

2. This report supports the corporate plan in that it helps to improve communication about the council's activities and provides value for money that meets the needs of our residents and service users.

Background

3. Following a meeting of the Strategic and Local Planning Advisory Group in May 2009, the draft Statement of Community Involvement was published for public consultation during June and July 2009. Appendix 1 to this report, which summarises the representations received and officers' comments, was considered by the advisory group on 5 October.
4. A copy of the Statement of Community Involvement incorporating the proposed changes is available for inspection in the members lounge in Abingdon.

Options

5. One of the key objectives of the local development framework is greater community involvement. Consistent with government guidance, a council must produce a Statement of Community Involvement; the option of not producing one is not open to the council.

Financial, legal and any other implications

6. The production of the Statement of Community Involvement is a legal requirement on the council. To meet the tests of soundness, documents that make up the development plan have to be prepared in accordance with it.

Background papers: Draft Statement of Community Involvement.