

Report on	Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for the new Local Development Plan and Development Management Functions for Mid Ulster
Date of Meeting	23rd August 2018
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Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide members with a revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for the new Local Development Plan and Development Management Functions for Mid Ulster.
2.0	Background
2.1	Section 4 of the 2011 Planning Act requires a council to prepare a SCI. The SCI Regulations set out the requirements for the preparation, form, content and publicity of the SCI. Regulation 6 of the Planning (Statement of Community Involvement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires that the SCI is approved by resolution of the council prior to submission to the Department for its agreement. It also requires that the council keep the statement of community involvement under regular review and any revision must comply with the requirements of these Regulations. This is the first review of our SCI.
2.2	The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is to outline how a council proposes to engage the community and stakeholders in exercising its planning functions. It should set out a council's policy as to the involvement, in the exercise of a council's functions under the development management and local development plan provisions of the 2011 Act, of persons who appear to a council to have an interest in the matters relating to development in its area.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The attached revised SCI explains how the community and stakeholders will be involved in the preparation of the Local Development Plan as well as the development management and enforcement processes.
3.2	The revised SCI sets out the steps that the Council will take to facilitate community involvement and sets out a vision and strategy for involving the community and stakeholders at various stages of the planning process.
3.3	The revised SCI sets out the standards to be met by a council in terms of community involvement, building upon the minimum requirements set out in both the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015 and the Planning (Statement of Community Involvement) Regulations 2015.

3.4	The Statement of Community Planning Regulations state that before preparing the SCI a council must consider whether it is appropriate to invite representations from persons who have an interest in development in this area. In preparing the initial SCI extensive consultation was undertaken in the form of a public notice and letters were issued to a n extensive number of local community groups and organisations asking them if they wish to be involved in the process and seeking confirmation of their details. Given the extensive consultation at that time it is considered that it is not necessary to invite representation as part of this review of the SCI.
3.5	<p>The most notable proposed changes to the revised SCI include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusion of a public consultation on Key Issues prior to the publication to the Local Policies Plan and an associated 8 week consultation period. • Minor changes to the wording of the development management section to more accurately reflect the process and planning protocol. • Significant amendment to the list of local community/voluntary groups in Mid Ulster at List 2 of Appendix 1. This is to ensure compliance with GDPR legislation whereby those previously listed at List 2 were contacted at the end of May 2018 and asked if they wish to 'opt in' to allow us to hold their details for the purpose of plan making. To-date there are a number of groups who have not responded and therefore this list is only reflective of those who have 'opted in' this far and the list has the potential to change if we receive further letters prior to the final publication of the SCI.
3.6	The next step in progressing the revised SCI is to submit it to the Department for agreement.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human:
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: The SCI lists those Section 75 groups which will be contacted in accordance with the preparation of the Local Development Plan as per the steps in the SCI.</p>
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)

5.1	Members are requested to consider and agree the attached revised SCI which will then be submitted to the Department for its agreement.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Revised SCI (and attached appendices).