

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	23 June 2021
Executive Member:	Cllr Gerald Cooney – Executive Member (Housing, Planning and Employment)
Reporting Officer:	Jayne Traverse – Director of Growth
Subject:	STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Report Summary:	<p>The Council's current Statement of Community Involvement was adopted 2 November 2020. It was updated to; reflect how consultation and engagement could occur in a covid compliant way, ensure consistency in messaging about the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), and incorporate other technical amendments.</p> <p>Given the recent agreement of Council (23 February 2021) and Executive Cabinet (24 March 2021) to the establishment of a joint committee to prepare a joint plan 'Places for Everyone', following the withdrawal of Stockport from the GMSF, the update to the SCI presented within this report is to simply reflect the change in narrative around joint planning.</p>
Recommendations:	It is recommended that Executive Cabinet approves the publication of the updated Statement of Community Involvement and accompanying EIA as set out at Appendix 1 and 2, and bring it into immediate effect.
Corporate Plan:	Community engagement is an essential part of the Corporate Plan, ensuring the residents of Tameside, its communities and businesses are involved within shared decision making. The Statement of Community Involvement helps to achieve this through the consultation and engagement mechanisms which are set out within it.
Policy Implications:	<p>The updated Statement of Community Involvement brings the narrative associated with joint planning, formerly the GMSF, now Places for Everyone, up to date. It does not propose to change any other part of the statement as an updated SCI was only recently adopted, 2 November 2020.</p> <p>In addition, Local Planning Authorities must review their SCI every five years from adoption, as set out within the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. This update, while focusing on the specifics of joint planning, helps to ensure continued compliance with that requirement.</p>
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	Section 4.2 of Appendix 1 states that the costs of community engagement will mainly be financed from existing resources. However, alternative resource allocations will need to be considered should specific circumstances and additional costs arise. The related funding allocation will be need to be identified and agreed in advance should this be necessary.
Legal Implications:	The procedures considered appropriate by the Council and as required or recommended by national legislation, and Government

**(Authorised by the
Borough Solicitor)**

guidance must be followed to review and revise the Council's SCI (as set out in paragraph 5.2 of the adopted SCI).

There are no changes proposed to who will be involved in preparing and revising local planning documents and making decisions on planning applications, how they will be involved and when. Stockport MBC remains a specific consultation body and must be consulted in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Where local planning authorities are proposing to revise their SCI without formal consultation, it is considered good practice to inform the public of their intentions to update the SCI and of the changes that have been made.

Risk Management:

Risks are associated with failure to publish the revised SCI including increased risk of challenge relating to plan making activities should a consistent position in relation to 'Places for Everyone' not be established.

Access to Information:

The Statement of Community Involvement and accompanying documentation will be published on the Council website at the address below and as appended to this report.

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/planning/ldf/sci>

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Graham Holland



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Community involvement is an important part of the planning process. It can bring significant benefits by strengthening the evidence base for plan-making and decision taking; ensuring community commitment to the further development of an area; promoting regeneration and investment; and increasing ownership and strength of delivery. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) helps the Council to achieve this.
- 1.2 The current SCI was adopted 2 November 2020 following comprehensive review and a 6 week period of public consultation. While the period of consultation was not a statutory requirement, it was undertaken as commitments were given in the prior SCI, adopted in 2016, that when revising it, the same procedures used to prepare it would be followed. Permanent changes were proposed were proposed in the 2020 update, which were reflective of the significant changes in how people are interacting physically at that time.
- 1.3 This 2021 update however, represents a technical amendment and follows the decisions of Stockport Council (3 and 4 December 2020) not to approve the submission of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), following the intended consultation period and not to publish the GMSF 2020. This in effect signalled the end of the GMSF as a joint plan of ten Greater Manchester Boroughs.
- 1.4 On the 11 December 2020 AGMA Executive agreed in principle to prepare a plan covering the remaining nine GM districts and on the 12 February 2021 considered a number of recommendations for boroughs to take forward, to establish a new joint committee for the nine remaining boroughs and prepare an alternative joint development plan document (DPD) titled 'Places for Everyone'.
- 1.5 The purpose of this SCI update is to reflect the change in narrative and terminology around joint planning of the nine boroughs and 'Places for Everyone', given the recent agreements of Council (23 February 2021) and Executive Cabinet (24 March 2021) to establishment and delegation to a new joint committee the preparation of the plan.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Given the recent comprehensive update to the SCI undertaken last year (November 2020) and as the amendments proposed through this update relate only to the technical narrative around joint planning, no period of public consultation is proposed.
- 2.2 This follows the matter of preparing 'Places for Everyone' and establishment of the new joint committee having already been subject to a separate decision-making process at Council and Cabinet.
- 2.3 In addition, there is no legislative requirement to consult on amendments to the SCI¹, nor is there any such explicit commitment to consult on amendments within the existing SCI itself. As advised is good practice, approval via the Executive process ensures the updates proposed to the SCI are part of a public process and the changes made are clear.

3. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 The existing SCI was subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken with support from the Council's policy team. The EIA seeks to ensure that the SCI is compliant with the relevant legislation. As the update to the SCI relates only to the narrative around

¹ Paragraph: 078 Reference ID: 61-078-201200513 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>

joint planning, the EIA is considered to remain fit for purpose. A copy of the EIA is included at **Appendix 2**.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 An updated SCI is presented for approval to be published which has been prepared to reflect changes in preparing a joint plan of nine boroughs through Places for Everyone. Due to the technical nature of the update, recent comprehensive review following consultation and no statutory or local commitment to do so, no period of public consultation is proposed. The SCI is included at **Appendix 1** and the EIA is included at **Appendix 2**.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 As set out at the front of the report.

Statement of Community Involvement

Statement of Community Involvement



Statement of Community Involvement

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Planning ensures that the right development happens in the right place at the right time, benefitting communities and the economy. It plays a critical role in identifying what development is needed and where, what areas need to be protected or enhanced and in assessing whether proposed development is suitable².
- 1.2 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how Tameside Council will involve people in preparing and revising local planning documents and making decisions on planning applications.
- 1.3 The aim is that by achieving greater community engagement throughout the planning process the Council's stakeholders and other organisations will have an active involvement in identifying and addressing the main planning issues, and in the development of planning policies and proposals. In this way it is hoped that many objections will be resolved prior to the independent examination of local plans, and prior to the determination of planning applications.
- 1.4 This SCI highlights the importance of communities in planning. The Council will follow the guidelines and requirements set out in the following pages, monitoring and updating them when appropriate.
- 1.5 The Council recognises that community involvement can bring significant benefits:
- **Strengthening the evidence base for plans, strategies and planning decisions**
 - stakeholders and local communities bring a different perspective to planning and are valued for their expertise, opinions and insight.
 - **Community commitment to the future development of an area**
 - local people make a difference in their area, with long-term benefits.
 - **Promoting regeneration and investment**
 - by publicising proposals and inviting the involvement of stakeholders and local communities, the Council demonstrates its commitment to joint working to achieve better quality results.
 - **Ownership and strengthening delivery**
 - many elements of local planning require joint working between the Council, local communities and stakeholders. The Council believes that involving communities at an early stage of document preparation helps to resolve issues and achieve a common commitment.
- 1.6 The Council is required to publish a SCI detailing how they will engage local communities, this is set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. In addition there are a number of regulations and guidance documents which set specific requirements for the Council to follow, detailed in Table 1 below.

² Plain English Guide to the Planning System, Department for Communities and Local Government, January 2015

Legislation / Guidance	
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	For Local Plan making including for a Statement of Community Involvement (Section 18).
Development Management Procedure Order 2015	Sets out the statutory provisions for consultation on planning applications and specific bodies to be consulted depending on the type of planning application.
Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012	For Local Plan making, including consultation and consideration of representations, including submission, examination and publication requirements. (Regulations 4, 5, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 35 and 36).
The Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020	Makes temporary changes to Regulations 35 and 36 referred to above.
Planning Practice Guidance	Sets out who should be involved in preparing a Local Plan.
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Sets out consultation requirements (Regulation 13) and post adoption requirements (Regulation 16).
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Sets out requirements for consultation with regard to Habitats Regulations Assessment (Chapter 8).

Table 1 Summary of the relevant Acts, regulations and guidance documents in relation to requirements to engage local communities in the planning process.

- 1.7 This SCI is a revision to the previous editions adopted by the Council in 2016 and revised in 2020, to reflect changes in legislation, Government guidance and the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is now revised to establish a consistent message across the nine Greater Manchester boroughs involved in preparing the joint development plan document 'Places for Everyone'.
- 1.8 When preparing Local Development Documents or determining planning applications the Council must comply with the community engagement requirements set out in the adopted SCI.

2.0 Planning Policy

2.1 The Council wants to give local people a greater role in shaping their local area, and the provisions of the Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) gives the boroughs communities the opportunity to get more involved in the preparation of planning documents, together with new powers to help shape their neighbourhoods.

2.2 The Local Planning Authority is responsible for new plan making with the following section of the SCI setting out the consultation methods and opportunities for community involvement during the processes of policy making. The Council will always comply with the statutory minimum requirements prescribed by legislation, although in many cases it will go beyond this.

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF, introduced in March 2012 and most recently updated in February 2019, sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The Framework acts as guidance for Local Planning Authorities in preparing plans and making decisions on planning applications. Additional advice is provided in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

2.4 When preparing policies in Development Plan Documents (DPD), they must be broadly consistent with the NPPF and PPG, being supported by appropriate evidence.

2.5 The Development Plan

2.6 The Development Plan for Tameside comprises various Local Development Documents (LDD) of which there are two main types;

- Development Plan Documents (DPDs) are documents that have been subject to independent examination and testing. Once adopted these are the documents against which planning applications are assessed. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with these documents unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are not subject to independent examination and are not policy themselves, but they do provide guidance on how the DPDs will be implemented and are a material consideration in determining planning applications.

2.7 The current Development Plan for Tameside comprises of the following DPDs;

- Unitary Development Plan
- Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map
- Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan
- Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan

2.8 When preparing a LDD the Council should comply with the requirements set out within the adopted SCI. The Council's intentions on the production of future DPD or SPD, including the timetable for doing so, are outlined in its Local Development Scheme (LDS) and reviewed in the Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR). These requirements also apply to any documents which the Council produces jointly with other Local Planning Authorities. Such documents in

the past have included the aforementioned Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan and the Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan.

2.9 Places for Everyone – A Joint Development Plan Document for Sustainable Development

- 2.10 The Publication of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) was due to occur in December 2020 for a period of public consultation, prior to submission to the Secretary of State. However, following the decision of Stockport Council not to approve the Publication plan, it was agreed in principle at a meeting of the AGMA Executive Board on 11 December 2020 to prepare a joint DPD for the remaining nine Greater Manchester Authorities.
- 2.11 As with the GMSF, this Joint DPD titled 'Places for Everyone' will principally cover strategic policies including housing and employment land requirements and, as appropriate, strategic site allocations and Green Belt boundary amendments and associated infrastructure across the nine districts.
- 2.12 Consultation on Places for Everyone is carried out on a joint basis and is in line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the nine districts' Statements of Community Involvement.
- 2.13 If you wish to register your interest in being informed of future joint planning consultations please register on the mailing list sign up page or contact:
planningandhousing@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

2.14 The Tameside Development Plan

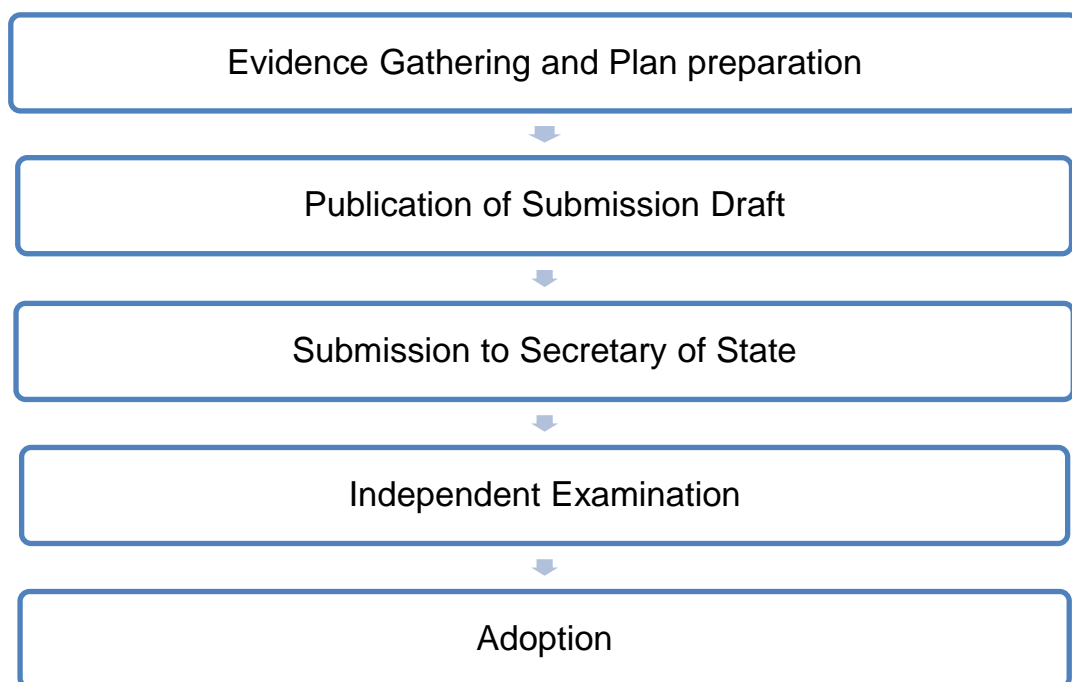
- 2.15 All local authorities are required to produce a Local Plan with the aim of providing a more flexible planning system that adapts to changing priorities and which seeks to secure sustainable development.
- 2.16 The Council will consult widely during the preparation of DPDs, inviting representations on what they should contain, the supporting evidence, the key issues and the options for addressing these at various stages.
- 2.17 The formal adoption of DPDs requires following a set process culminating in submission of the documents to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who appoints an independent examiner whose role it is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements and whether it meets specified soundness tests.
- 2.18 Tameside's future Development Plan is expected to consist of the following;
- Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan
 - Already adopted (April 2013), this document contains policies and site proposals to meet the needs for minerals planning across Greater Manchester.
 - Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan
 - Already adopted (April 2012), this document contains policies and site proposals to meet the needs for waste planning across Greater Manchester.
 - Places for Everyone – A Joint DPD of nine GM Districts

- Being prepared by nine of the Local Planning Authorities of Greater Manchester, the Joint DPD will focus primarily on planning sub-regionally for housing and employment land requirements for the districts of Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan.
- Tameside Local Plan
 - Will include both policies and site allocations, establishing where development will be encouraged and where it will be resisted.
- Tameside Local Plan Proposals Map
 - Will illustrate where policy designations and site specific proposals are on plan.
- Supplementary Planning Documents
 - Will be prepared and updated on a range of guidance areas

2.19 When relevant in the preparation of the above documents the Council will assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of the policies at each stage of plan production through carrying out a Sustainability Appraisal to identify and enhance the positive effects of policies whilst minimising any potentially adverse impacts. In addition, where necessary the Council will also carry out Habitat Regulations Assessment.

2.20 Consultation on Development Plan Documents

2.21 There are a number of key stages involved in the preparation of any planning policy documents. These stages are required by Government through planning legislation and regulations and are designed to ensure that the process of plan making is as open and transparent as possible. The below highlights the key stages usually involved in the preparation of DPDs.



2.22 Further details about local plan preparation and the statutory process can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>

- 2.23 Notification of public consultation on the emerging Tameside Local Plan or other DPD will be provided at various stages, as detailed below.

2.24 Who will be involved?

- 2.25 When preparing DPDs the Council is required by planning legislation to consider formally consulting and involving a number of specific bodies and organisations as well as voluntary bodies whose activities benefit any part of the borough, and other general consultation bodies representing a range of interested parties which are listed in appendix 1.

- 2.26 Additionally the Council has developed a consultation database which contains a wide range of other consultees and individuals. When appropriate, those on the database are contacted when preparing planning policy documents so there are numerous opportunities to influence policies and proposals as they develop.

- 2.27 Any interested parties or individuals are able to register to receive such correspondence at:

<http://www.tameside.gov.uk/planning/ldf/sci>

2.28 When will they be involved?

- **Evidence Gathering and Plan Preparation**

In developing a DPD, such as the Local Plan, the Council will seek to engage with interested parties at an early stage. This will typically conclude in a minimum 6 week period of consultation on a draft version of the DPD which would be likely to include the key issues and the realistic options for addressing these.

- **Publication of Submission Draft Stage**

Following consideration of all comments submitted on a draft DPD, the Council will prepare a Publication version of it which it effectively considers to be the 'sound' and final document which will be subject to a further period of consultation lasting at least 6 weeks.

- **Submission and Examination**

The Council will inform anyone who has requested to be notified when the DPD is submitted to the Secretary of State.

- **Adoption**

The Council will notify of the adoption of the DPD to all interested parties. The Inspector may advise the Council of their view as to whether the DPD requires modifications to be considered 'sound'. The Council is able to ask the Inspector to make recommendations as to what modifications are required.

2.29 How will they be involved?

2.30 The Council will consider using a range of consultation methods and activities (a number of which are specified by regulation (as varied from time to time)) selected from the following list³ when undertaking consultation exercises in connection with DPDs:

- Electronic copies of documents made available on the Council's website
- Hard copies of documents made available at the Council's main reception
- Hard copies of documents made available at local libraries and other public buildings as the Council considers appropriate
- Emails and letters sent to database contacts
- Social media items
- Local newspaper articles
- Planning policy newsletter
- Other online news sources
- Site notice displayed at or near sites
- Information displayed in prominent public spaces including at Council buildings, public notice boards and leisure centres.
- Presentation at established public meeting cycles
- Key stakeholder discussions
- Workshops
- Other alternative methods of physical and/or virtual engagement as deemed appropriate

2.31 Consultation on Supplementary Planning Documents

2.32 Similar to DPDs a number of key stages are involved in the preparation of SPDs although they are typically much quicker to produce as SPDs are not required to be submitted to the Secretary of State or be independently examined thereafter. SPDs are produced to support and provide additional information and guidance on policies and proposals contained in DPDs.

2.33 Who will be involved?

2.34 When preparing SPDs the Council will seek to encourage involvement from a wide range of bodies and organisations, individuals, businesses and other stakeholders as it sees fit. The nature of involvement will largely be dependent on the document's content, where for site specific SPDs the Council will seek to notify all those that are considered to be directly affected by the proposal.

2.35 The Council has developed a consultation database which includes a wide range of consultees and individuals, forming the starting point for engaging with stakeholders. Any interested parties or individuals are able to register to receive such correspondence at:

<http://www.tameside.gov.uk/planning/ldf/sci>

³ Where circumstances arise that are beyond the Council's control, such as a time of national lockdown during the coronavirus (Covid-19) restrictions, the Council may not be able to make use of some of the methods listed or may need to consult in a socially distanced way. In such circumstances the Council will tailor its consultation methods in line with legal requirements and the most up to date Government guidance that exists at that time.

2.36 When will they be involved?

- 2.37 Where necessary the Council will engage with relevant stakeholders to inform the development of a draft SPD dependent upon the intended policy content. The Council will prepare a draft SPD and make this available for public comment for a period of no less than 4 weeks.
- 2.38 Once adopted the Council will make the SPD available on its website, principle office and libraries and also notify of the adoption to any person or body that made representation or who asked to be notified of the adoption.

2.39 How will they be involved?

- 2.40 The Council will consider using a range of consultation methods and activities (a number of which are specified by regulation) selected from the following list⁴ when undertaking consultation exercises in connection with SPDs:
- Electronic copies of documents made available on the Council's website
 - Hard copies of documents made available at the Council's main reception
 - Hard copies of documents made available at local libraries and other public buildings as the Council considers appropriate
 - Emails and letters sent to database contacts
 - Social media items

2.41 Consultation on Neighbourhood Plans

- 2.42 Neighbourhood Planning is an optional process led by the community, parts of which the Council have to undertake and publicise. It is however the responsibility of Town Councils, Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums to engage and consult with the neighbourhood they seek to represent during the development of a neighbourhood plan, where the council will take a pragmatic approach to assisting established groups. Neighbourhood Plans need to be consistent with other elements of the Development Plan and would be subject to an examination conducted by an independent inspector.
- 2.43 Further guidance and advice on Neighbourhood Plans can be found on the Government's Planning Practice Guidance website

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

2.44 Wish to be kept informed?

⁴ Where circumstances arise that are beyond the Council's control, such as a time of national lockdown during the coronavirus (Covid-19) restrictions, the Council may not be able to make use of some of the methods listed or may need to consult in a socially distanced way. In such circumstances the Council will tailor its consultation methods in line with legal requirements and the most up to date Government guidance that exists at that time.

- 2.45 If you have an interest in Local Plan preparation matters and would like to add your details to our database of contacts and receive emails or letters on future consultations please register your details here:

<http://www.tameside.gov.uk/planning/ldf/sci>

3.0 Planning Applications

3.1 Introduction

- 3.2 The construction of most new buildings, major changes to existing buildings or to the local environment needs planning consent. Without a planning system everyone could construct buildings or use land in any way they wanted, no matter what effect this would have on other people who lived or worked in that area and the environment.
- 3.3 The Local Planning Authority is responsible for determining the applications submitted to it. The following section of this SCI set out the opportunities for community involvement during the processing of applications.

3.4 Pre-Application Discussions

- 3.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) emphasises the importance to applicants of carrying out pre-application discussions with the Local Planning Authority and communities on their emerging proposals.
- 3.6 The aim of the pre-application process is to encourage discussion with a range of bodies including the local community before a formal application is made. By using this process it may be possible to amend a proposal in response to issues raised by Council officers, stakeholders, elected members or the community. This approach can help to avoid objections being made at a later stage.
- 3.7 Developers are therefore encouraged to contact the Council prior to the submission of a planning application to discuss their development proposal and any challenges which may arise from it. Generally this will involve discussions with relevant Council officers and the applicant or their agent, although the Council may also involve other interested parties where their knowledge or expertise could assist with discussions.
- 3.8 Where the Council consider a proposal is likely to generate significant levels of public interest, the prospective developer will be encouraged to engage in consultation with the local community prior to the submission of a planning application. This is likely to raise awareness of future proposals and enable the developer to take on board the views of local people when drawing up the details of the development proposal. Details of how consultation with the local community has assisted in shaping an application should be submitted with the proposal.
- 3.9 Community engagement should be genuine, where failure by the applicant to consult appropriately could lead to objections being made which could be material to the determination of the application.
- 3.10 Small scale developments such as house extensions will generally not require pre-application community involvement, but applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with neighbours and people who are directly affected, prior to the submitting an application. Further information on the pre-application stage can be found here:

<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/before-submitting-an-application/>

3.11 Applications – Who Will We Consult

- 3.12 The Council is committed to involving communities in Tameside in the planning application process and will actively seek the views of the community on planning matters as set out in this SCI. The Council's arrangements for publicity and notification will never be less than the statutory minimum set out in the Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (and its amendments).
- 3.13 In addition to pre-application discussions and wider community involvement there are statutory consultees which the Council must consult on planning applications. Exactly which body is consulted depends on the nature of the application but includes organisations such as the Environment Agency or Historic England for example. There are also a significant number of non-statutory bodies which the Council may consult in appropriate circumstances.
- 3.14 Further details on the statutory requirements for consulting on planning applications can be found here:

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/consultation-and-pre-decision-matters/>

3.15 Applications – How Will We Consult

- 3.16 In publicising planning applications it is not only necessary for the Council to meet its statutory obligations but to strike a balance between considerations of cost, speed of decision making and providing appropriate opportunity for comment.
- 3.17 A weekly list of all valid planning applications received by the Planning Service is published on the Council's website and is sent to all Elected Members. This can be viewed at:

<http://public.tameside.gov.uk/plan/f422planapp.asp>

- 3.18 Consultees are able to download electronic documents, plans and reports from the Council's website in respect of the relevant application for inspection from the same link given above. Computers are available at the Council's Libraries for website access. Interested parties can also check the progress of an application via the same web pages.
- 3.19 Once a valid application has been received the Council's arrangements for publicity and notification will never be less than the statutory minimum set out in the Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (and its amendments), shown by hatching in table 2 below.

Type of Development	Site Notice	Site Notice or Neighbour Notification Letter	Press advertisement	Website
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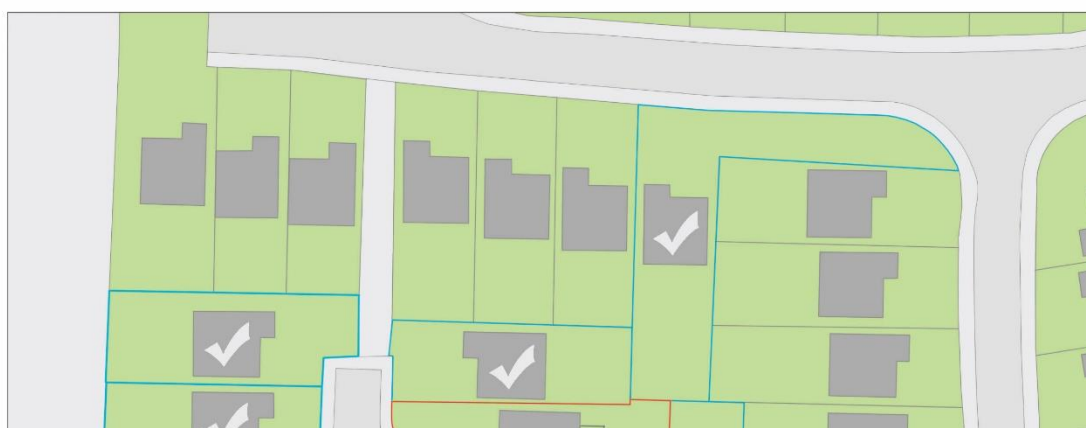
Applications for major development as defined in Article 2 of the Development Management Procedure Order	✓			
Applications subject to Environmental Impact Assessment which are accompanied by an environmental statement				
Applications which do not accord with the development plan.		✓		
Applications which would affect a right of way to which Part 3 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.		✓		
Applications for planning permission not covered in the entries above (e.g. Non major development)				
Applications for listed building consent where works to the exterior of the building are proposed.		✓		
Applications to vary or discharge conditions attached to a listed building consent or conservation area consent or involving exterior works to a listed building.		✓		

Table 2 - Statutory minimum and Tameside publicity requirements for planning and heritage applications.
(Note: Environmental Impact Assessment guidance sets out further publicity and consultation requirements for applications where this is relevant).

Community involvement in the development management process may require general publicity with the wider community and also more targeted consultation where it is considered a proposed development could have an impact on an individual or set of individuals neighbouring the application site. The Council will, in addition, publicise proposals as shown in Table 2 indicated by ticks, which exceeds the statutory minimum requirements.

- 3.20 The Council's principle method of contact will be by a standard letter. The letter gives an address or location description of the application site, brief details of the proposal, where further details of the proposal can be inspected and when comments should be made by.
- 3.21 In respect of every valid planning application Neighbour Notification letters will be sent to adjacent properties sharing a boundary with the application site as depicted below in figure 1. This will also include properties separated from the application site by the public highway.
- 3.22 Where schemes affect the application site frontage and/or have a significant impact on the street scene, Neighbour Notification letters may be sent to additional properties at the discretion of the case officer. As highlighted in Table 2 in the case of major planning applications the Council will additionally consult through the use of at least one site notice.

Figure 1 - Consultation of adjoining properties, meaning any property which shares a boundary with the application site.



- 3.24 During the consultation period, representations to the Local Planning Authority should raise material planning considerations to carry any weight in the determination of the application (material considerations are genuine planning considerations). The considerations must also fairly and reasonably relate to the application concerned.
- 3.25 Representations must be made in writing or by email giving the name and address of the respondent. Verbal representations cannot be considered in the determination of an application. Representations cannot be made in confidence, they become part of the publicly viewable planning file, including by the applicant.
- 3.26 Any representations received which refer to material planning considerations either for or against the proposed development will be considered.

3.27 Applications – When will they be involved?

- 3.28 Once an application is considered to be valid, the Council will contact consultees allowing 21 days from the date of the communication for comments to be made in writing. If material (significant) amendments to plans or other details are received during the course of processing the application, the persons notified and/or those who have commented on the application thus far will be re-notified and given a further period of at least 14 days to make any representations.
- 3.29 In dealing with non-material amendments for minor alterations to applications during the course of processing the application then no further notification will be sent out.
- 3.30 The Council will not as a matter of course reply to or acknowledge representations made, but will not determine a planning application until the public consultation period relevant to the application has expired.

3.31 Decision Making

- 3.32 Most planning applications are decided by the Assistant Executive Director for Development Growth and Investment, who is afforded delegated powers as part of the Council's Constitution. The Council's Speakers Panel (Planning) and on occasion Strategic Capital

Panel, which consists of Elected Members are able to make decisions about applications which cannot be determined through the scheme of delegated powers. The dates, times and locations of Council meetings can be found on its website.

- 3.33 In the case of non-householder applications, members of the public are entitled to request the opportunity to address the Speakers Panel (Planning) before a decision is made. Requests to speak should be made in writing to the Head of Planning within 21 days of receiving a neighbour notification letter. The applicant will also be given the opportunity to speak. Only one person from either side is allowed to speak, each for a maximum of five minutes. It is also possible for a member of the public to ask a local Councillor to speak on their behalf. Householder applications will only be determined by the Speakers Panel where a written request is made by a Ward Councillor.

4.0 Resources

- 4.1 Community involvement has resource implications but the Council nonetheless recognises that investing in it can help minimise future costs by avoiding as far as possible the need for a lengthy and controversial Local Plan examination process.
- 4.2 The level of community involvement for both Local Plan preparation and Development Management related work that is identified in this SCI is considered to be realistic and is sufficiently targeted to enable the Council to achieve its requirements for community involvement, as set out in this SCI, can largely be met through existing internal staffing resources.
- 4.3 There may however be specific circumstances in which the Council will need to consider assigning additional resources to cover the costs of further assistance. Additionally, officers will continue to work closely with colleagues and partner organisations to adopt a positive approach to involving external groups and individuals and will utilise existing networks linked to other Council plans and strategies.

5.0 Monitoring and Review

- 5.1 The SCI has and will continually be reviewed in the future. The continuing aim is to learn from experience and to find ways to improve upon the arrangements and processes set out.
- 5.2 The Council will continue to evaluate its consultation processes in terms of resources used and responses received. The Council will also assess the effectiveness of various community involvement techniques used in order to review the appropriateness of the methods and procedures used. Amendments required as a result of any future changes will manifest in revision of the SCI in line with the procedures considered appropriate by the Council and as required or recommended by national legislation, and Government guidance.

Appendix 1 – Consultees

Please note the below lists are not exhaustive and the Council will apply its discretion where appropriate particularly in relation to successor bodies where reorganisations occur.

Duty to Cooperate Bodies:

- Civil Aviation Authority;
- Environment Agency;
- Historic England;
- Homes England;
- The Marine Management Organisation;
- Natural England;
- The Office of Rail and Road;
- Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group;
- Tameside Local Highways Authority;
- Transport for Greater Manchester; and
- Highways England.

Above is a list of the relevant agencies that are to be engaged in addition to any neighbouring local planning authority or other local planning authorities with which there is a cross boundary matter.

- Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Local Nature Partnerships

The above two bodies are not subject to the requirements of the duty. However local planning authorities that are subject to the duty must cooperate with them and have regard to their activities when preparing Local Plans, provided their activities are relevant.

Specific Consultation Bodies

The following will be consulted in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and subsequent amendments. Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment legislation refers to the Statutory Consultees who are shown in bold in the list below:

- **Environment Agency;**
- **Historic England;**
- **Natural England;**
- Oldham Council;
- Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council;
- Manchester City Council;
- High Peak Borough Council;
- Derbyshire County Council;
- Mossley Town Council;
- Greater Manchester Police Authority;
- Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner;

- Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Highways England;
- Homes and Communities Agency;
- Network Rail Infrastructure Limited;
- Peak District National Park Authority;
- Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group;
- The Coal Authority;
- The Marine Management Organisation;
- Tintwistle Parish Council;
- Charlesworth Parish Council;
- Chisworth Parish Council;
- Saddleworth Parish Council.
- Relevant electricity and gas companies;
- Relevant sewerage undertakers (e.g. United Utilities);
- Relevant water undertakers (e.g. United Utilities);
- Relevant telecommunications companies; and
- Manchester Airport⁵

General Consultation Bodies

The following are defined as general consultation bodies and will be consulted, as appropriate, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012:

- Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interest of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interest of disabled persons in the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interest or persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area

Other Consultees

To ensure robust consultation and enable early engagement in the planning document production process the Council will continue to consider the need to consult, where appropriate, with those it has historically consulted including with a wide variety of groups and individuals to those included on the existing Local Plan database of contacts.

⁵ Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 stipulate who are specific consultation bodies, this does not include Manchester Airport, they are however included here due to their sub regional role.

Appendix 2 – Glossary

AMR

Authority's Monitoring Reports

Authority's Monitoring Reports set out the effectiveness of plans adopted by monitoring progress made across a number of social, economic and environmental indicators split in to topic based areas that affect the Borough.

DPD

Development Plan Document

Development Plan Documents are those which have been subject to independent testing, contain policy content and collectively DPDs comprise the boroughs planning framework.

GMCA

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

The ten authorities in Greater Manchester are the first in the country to develop a statutory Combined Authority which will co-ordinate key economic development, regeneration and transport functions.

GMSF

'Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs, and the Environment' – The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

The joint plan worked on by the ten Greater Manchester authorities. The GMSF aimed to provide the overarching framework to strategically manage sustainable growth and development across the conurbation over the next twenty years or so.

HRA

Habitats Regulations Assessment

A Habitats Regulations Assessment involves assessment of strategic policy and potential allocated sites for potential impact upon European designated nature sites.

LDD

Local Development Document

Local Development Documents collectively comprise Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that have been subject to independent testing and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which are not subject to independent testing.

LDS

Local Development Scheme

The Local Development Scheme is the project plan or timetable which sets out which planning documents the Local Authority will look to prepare when.

NPPF

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework is a statement of the Government's national planning policy which acts as guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers, both in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications.

NPPG

National Planning Practice Guidance

The National Planning Practice Guidance sits alongside the NPPF and provides technical guidance on its application.

SA

Sustainability Appraisal

Sustainability appraisal is an assessment process used to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of the strategies and policies proposed in planning documents. Its purpose is to enhance the positive effects of policies whilst minimising any potentially adverse impacts.

SCI

Statement of Community Involvement

The Statement of Community involvement sets out how Tameside will involve people in preparing and revising local planning documents and making decisions on planning applications.

SPD

Supplementary Planning Document

A Local Development Document that has not been subject to independent testing. SPD were formerly known as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).

Appendix 2

Equality Impact Assessment

Tameside & Glossop Strategic Commission Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

Subject / Title	2021 revision/update of Statement of Community Involvement
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Team	Department	Directorate
Planning Policy	Planning and Transport	Growth

Start Date	Completion Date
24/07/2020	2/11/2020

Project Lead Officer	William Partington
Contract / Commissioning Manager	Graham Holland
Assistant Director/ Director	Jeff Upton – Interim Assistant Director

EIA Group (lead contact first)	Job title	Service
William Partington	Planning Policy Officer	Planning Policy
Graham Holland	Planning Policy Team Manager	Planning Policy
Michael Clegg	Policy Officer	Policy, Performance and Intelligence

**Tameside & Glossop Strategic Commission
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form**

PART 1 – INITIAL SCREENING

1a.	What is the project, proposal or service / contract change?	The update of Tameside Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
1b.	What are the main aims of the project, proposal or service / contract change?	<p>Regulation requires an SCI to be reviewed at least every five years. Tameside Council's current SCI was last reviewed on 31 August 2016 and is due for review. Since the SCI was last reviewed there are three areas of update and revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Covid-19 pandemic and how the Council is able to comply with its SCI in the context of local and national laws and guidance regarding social distancing - The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), a strategic development plan for the Greater Manchester conurbation of which Tameside is one of 10 constituent boroughs - General technical modifications such as government guidance about consultation on reviewing and updating SCI's now being optional

1c. Will the project, proposal or service / contract change have either a direct or indirect impact on, or relevance to, any groups of people with protected equality characteristics? Where there is a direct or indirect impact on, or relevance to, a group of people with protected equality characteristics as a result of the project, proposal or service / contract change please explain why and how that group of people will be affected.				
Protected Characteristic	Direct Impact/Relevance	Indirect Impact/Relevance	Little / No Impact/Relevance	Explanation
Age	<u>X</u>			The revision to the SCI which takes into account potential Covid-19 legislation or guidance could have a direct impact on, and relevance to, older people. This is because

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				<p>Covid-19 legislation that mandated closure of public libraries, the Council customer services centre, or potential physical consultation workshops would mean that the main methods of communication would be digital. Older people (65+) are less likely to have digital skills or access to the internet than working aged people (16-64) or younger people.</p>
Disability		<u>X</u>		<p>There may be an indirect impact on, or relevance to, people with a disability as the SCI sets out how the entire local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of the older people.</p>
Ethnicity		<u>X</u>		<p>There may be an indirect</p>

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				impact on, or relevance to, people of minority ethnicities as the SCI sets out how the entire local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of the older people.
Sex		<u>X</u>		There may be an indirect impact on, or relevance to, people of different sex or genders as the SCI sets out how the entire local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of the older people.
Religion or Belief		<u>X</u>		There may be an indirect impact on, or relevance to, people with different religions or beliefs as the SCI sets out how the entire

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				local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of older people.
Sexual Orientation		<u>X</u>		There may be an indirect impact on, or relevance to, people with different sexual orientations as the SCI sets out how the entire local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of the older people.
Gender Reassignment		<u>X</u>		There may be an indirect impact on, or relevance to, people who are undergoing/have undergone gender reassignment as the SCI sets out how the entire local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is

**Tameside & Glossop Strategic Commission
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form**

				not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of the older people.
Pregnancy & Maternity		<u>X</u>		There may be an indirect impact on, or relevance to, people who are pregnant or on maternity as the SCI sets out how the entire local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of the older people.
Marriage & Civil Partnership		<u>X</u>		There may be an indirect impact on, or relevance to, people who are married or in civil partnerships as the SCI sets out how the entire local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of the older people.

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Other protected groups determined locally by Tameside and Glossop Strategic Commission?				
Group (please state)	Direct Impact/Relevance	Indirect Impact/Relevance	Little / No Impact/Relevance	Explanation
Mental Health		<u>X</u>		There may be an indirect impact on, or relevance to, people with mental health issues as the SCI sets out how the entire local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of the older people.
Carers		<u>X</u>		There may be an indirect impact on, or relevance to, people who are carers as the SCI sets out how the entire local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of the older people.
Military Veterans		<u>X</u>		There may be an indirect

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				<p>impact on, or relevance to, people who are military veterans as the SCI sets out how the entire local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of the older people.</p>
Breast Feeding		<u>X</u>		<p>There may be an indirect impact on, or relevance to mothers who breast feed their children as the SCI sets out how the entire local community will be consulted on planning matters. However, it is not expected to be a direct impact, as in the case of the older people.</p>
<p>Are there any other groups who you feel may be impacted by the project, proposal or service/contract change or which it may have relevance to? (e.g. vulnerable residents, isolated residents, those who are homeless)</p>				
Group (please state)	Direct Impact/Relevance	Indirect Impact/Relevance	Little / No Impact/Relevance	Explanation

Tameside & Glossop Strategic Commission Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

Low or no income groups	<u>X</u>			<p>The revision to the SCI which takes into account potential Covid-19 legislation or guidance could have a direct impact on, and relevance to, people of low or no income. This is because Covid-19 legislation that mandated closure of public libraries, the Council customer services centre, or potential physical consultation workshops would mean that the main methods of communication would be digital. People of low or no income, particularly homeless people, are less likely to have access to the internet or methods of accessing it than people of higher income than them.</p>
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1d.		Yes	No
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Tameside & Glossop Strategic Commission Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

	Does the project, proposal or service / contract change require a full EIA?	X	
1e.	What are your reasons for the decision made at 1d?	<p>It is expected that the revision of the SCI could have a direct impact on two vulnerable groups, older people and people of low/no income.</p> <p>It is expected that the revision of the SCI could have an indirect impact on all of the other protected characteristic groups outlined in 1c.</p>	

If a full EIA is required please progress to Part 2.

PART 2 – FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2a. Summary
<p>A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out the way a council will involve the local community, stakeholders and statutory bodies in the preparation and revision of local plan documents. A local plan is a development plan that sets out strategic priorities for an area and covers housing, commercial, public and private development.</p> <p>Regulation requires an SCI to be reviewed at least every five years. Tameside Council's current SCI was last reviewed on 31 August 2016 and is due for review. Since the SCI was last reviewed there are three areas of update and revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Covid-19 pandemic and how the Council is able to comply with its SCI in the context of local and national laws and guidance regarding social distancing - The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), a strategic development plan for the Greater Manchester conurbation of which Tameside is one of 10 constituent boroughs - General technical modifications such as government guidance about consultation on reviewing and updating SCIs now being optional. <p>The scope of this EIA is the review and revision of Tameside Council's Statement of Community Involvement and any consultation on a revised draft Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>An EIA was completed in 2016 for the 2016 update of the SCI. The pertinent changes from the 2016 SCI to the 2020 draft SCI, which will be focused on in this EIA are summarised below:</p>

Tameside & Glossop Strategic Commission Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

- The SCI must take into account local and national guidance regarding Covid-19, particularly in regards to social distancing and this may require tailoring of physical consultation methods, i.e. hard copies of documents in libraries
- The SCI has been updated to include an up to date email address whereby readers can register their interest about being informed about future GMSF consultation; reference to specific methodology of the GMSF consultation has been removed as some consultation has already taken place between August 2016 and August 2020; further consultation on the GMSF is planned and a separate EIA under which GMSF consultation in Tameside will fall is planned

Issues to consider, the impact on protected characteristic groups, and mitigations on these impacts are outlined in more detail in sections 2b, 2c and 2d; however in summary:

Due regard must be given to the Public Sector Equality Duty of the Equality Act 2010, the pertinent change from the 2016 version of the SCI to the 2020 version is that due to Covid-19 there could be a hypothetical second lockdown which would make some of the physical methods of consultation with the public outlined in the SCI impossible.

These physical methods of consultation are the displaying of planning documents in public buildings and physical consultations. If buildings were to be shut again due to Covid-19 then digital communication and consultation would be the main method, and older people and people of low/no income could be directly impacted by this as they are less likely to have access to digital methods of communication and consultation.

However, there are a number of other physical methods of communication which are already used in some cases due to legislative requirements, such as site notices, letters to neighbours of proposed developments and press notices. These physical methods could be considered for consultation with the community under the SCI.

Consultation on the draft SCI took place between Thursday 20 August and Thursday 1 October. The consultation on the draft SCI was promoted through the Partnership Engagement Network mailing list, which has contacts from a number of organisations representing protected characteristic groups, as well as through the Local Plan Consultation Database. The consultation webpage and online form also included a link to sign up to the Local Plan Consultation database so that members of the public or members of the Partnership Engagement Network mailing list can join this if they have not already done so.

2b. Issues to Consider

Section 149 the "Public Sector Equality Duty" of the Equality Act 2010 stipulates:

(1) A public authority must in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to-

- (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimization and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

Tameside & Glossop Strategic Commission Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

(3) Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to-

- (a) Remove or minimize disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- (b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of the persons who do not share it;
- (c) Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low

The removal of outdated GMSF methodology from the SCI, based on consultation that was planned in 2016 and has taken place since 2020, is not expected to impact or have relevance to particular protected characteristic groups, and future GMSF consultation within Tameside will have an independent EIA conducted rather than being within the scope of this EIA.

The updating of links to join the planning database of contacts and email addresses for enquiries, which is a change between the 2016 SCI and this 2020 version, is replacing like for like; an electronic method of communication with a similar electronic route of communication.

However, potential changes to the physical access to hard copies of planning documents due to the Covid-19 legislation and guidance, should be considered.

As the Statement of Community Involvement sets out the way the council will involve the local community in the preparation and revision of local plan documents it is expected that revisions to it will have at least an indirect impact on, or indirect relevance to, all of the nine protected characteristics defined by the 2010 Equality Act.

These are:

- Age
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Sex/Gender
- Religion or Belief
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Reassignment
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Marriage & Civil Partnership

Revisions to the Statement of Community Involvement are also expected to have at least an indirect impact on, or indirect relevance to, the Tameside and Glossop Strategic Commission's locally determined protected characteristic groups:

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- Mental Health
- Carers
- Military Veterans
- Breastfeeding

As well as the additional vulnerable group of:

- Low income/no income

The impact on and relevance to these groups will be considered in section 2c.

Other considerations are that the Local Plan Consultation Database used by planning to consult on planning matters as part of the Statement of Community Involvement includes organisations representing different protected characteristic groups. Some of these groups are detailed below:

Age

Age UK;
Age UK Tameside; and
Borough wide Community and Residents Associations.

Disability

The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee;
Tameside Deaf Association;
Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People; and
Borough wide Community and Residents Associations.

Ethnicity

Association of Ukrainians;
Shree Bharatiya Mandal (Indian Association);
Bangladesh Welfare Association;
Tameside Racial Equality Council Ltd;
The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups;
The Gypsy Council (Romani Kris); and
Borough wide Community and Residents Associations.

Religion or Belief

Denton Council of Churches;
Muslim Welfare Society (Tameside);
Catholic Women's League (Ashton); and
The Church of England National Offices

Consultation

Tameside & Glossop Strategic Commission Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

As outlined in section 2d. although there is no longer a legislative requirement for the Council to consult on the update/revision of the SCI, it is recommended that we do so. By putting up the draft SCI for feedback from the public, and promoting through the Council's Partnership Engagement Network mailing list (and Local Plan Consultation Database), as well as social media, press releases, press notices, partner organisations, and internal staff communications, we will hopefully gain insight directly from protected characteristic groups within the community.

The Partnership Engagement Network mailing list has nearly 400 contacts, many of whom are organisations representing protected characteristic groups. These contacts will also be able to circulate the link to any consultation on the SCI more widely within their organisations and communities. The consultation on the SCI provided participants with the option to join the Local Plan Consultation Database as recommended. A consultation on the SCI would also be able to gather demographic information from participants, which may identify any unanticipated impact of the draft SCI on specific protected characteristic groups.

2c. Impact/Relevance

As the Statement of Community Involvement sets out the way the council will consult the local community on planning matters, revisions to it will have an indirect impact on, and indirect relevance to, all members of the local community. This includes the Equality Act and Tameside Strategic Commission protected characteristics of disability, ethnicity, sex/gender, religion/belief, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, mental health, carers, military veterans, and breast feeding.

However the pertinent revisions to the SCI focus on the potential restriction of physical consultation methods on planning matters due to Covid-19. If there was another local or national lockdown in the event of a second wave of Covid-19, public and office buildings may be shut, this would mean it would be impossible for physical hard copies of planning documents to be made available in the Council's customer service centre, libraries and other public buildings. It would also mean physical consultation events would not be able to take place.

Whereas these physical restrictions are not expected to have a direct impact on, or direct relevance to, the protected characteristic groups outlined in the first paragraph of this section (2c.), it is possible they will have a direct impact on, and direct relevance to, the Equality Act protected characteristic of age (older people) and the vulnerable group of people with low/no income. This is because these groups are less likely to have access to the internet or have less digital skills. As digital methods of consultation and communication would be the main method of consultation and communication in the event of another local or national lockdown, it is possible these two groups would be disproportionately impacted.

There are mitigations that can be made, as outlined in section 2d. however it should be stated that in the event of another national or local lockdown due to Covid-19 that mandated the closure of public buildings, closure of offices and restricted interpersonal contact, there would be no option other than to follow this guidance. Furthermore any future national or local lockdown is a hypothetical scenario, and not guaranteed, and if it took place it would likely be temporary. Further to this, it is likely that in a scenario of strict lockdown that took place from later March 2020 for a number of months, construction and planning processes would also be put on hold, potentially along with any consultation on them.

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2d. Mitigations <i>(Where you have identified an impact/relevance, what can be done to reduce or mitigate it?)</i>	
Older people impacted by hypothetical second Covid-19 lockdown, as mandatory closure of public buildings would prevent display of hard copies of planning documents for consultation and physical consultations from taking place. Older people are less likely to have access to digital methods of communication or consultation which would become the de facto in this hypothetical second lockdown.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other physical methods of consultation as part of the SCI to be carried out when mandated by legislation, but also considered in the cases when not mandated, these include: site notices, notification letters to neighbours of proposed developments, press advertisements. These physical methods would still adhere to potential lockdown and social distancing requirements. - Recommended for a consultation to be carried out on the actual SCI draft document, although there is no necessity to do so as according to legislation. This would be promoted via the Council's Partnership Engagement Network mailing list (as well as the Local Plan Consultation Database) which has representatives from many protected characteristic groups, including groups relevant to older people and people of no/low income such as Age UK, homelessness charities, etc. This could also be promoted via a website page, social media, partner organisations, TMBC internal staff communications, press notice and press release. - Recommended that the link to sign-up to the Local Plan Consultation Database is included on the consultation about the SCI, so that the Local Plan Consultation Database can be more widely promoted amongst groups that represent protected characteristics.
People who have low or no income impacted by hypothetical second Covid-19 lockdown, as mandatory closure of public buildings would prevent display of hard copies of planning documents for consultation and physical consultations from taking place. People of low or no income are less likely to have access to digital methods of communication or consultation which would become the de	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other physical methods of consultation as part of the SCI to be carried out when mandated by legislation, but also considered in the cases when not mandated, these include: site notices, notification letters to neighbours of proposed developments, press advertisements. These physical methods would still adhere to potential lockdown and social distancing requirements. - Recommended for a consultation to be carried out on the actual SCI draft document, although there is no necessity to do so as according to legislation. This would be promoted via the Council's Partnership Engagement Network mailing list (as well as the Local Plan Consultation Database) which has representatives from many protected characteristic groups, including groups relevant to older people and people of no/low income such as Age UK, homelessness charities, etc. This could also be promoted via a website page social media, partner organisations, TMBC internal staff communications, press notice and press release.

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facto in this hypothetical second lockdown.	- Recommended that the link to sign-up to the Local Plan Consultation Database is included on the consultation about the SCI, so that the Local Plan Consultation Database can be more widely promoted amongst groups that represent protected characteristics.
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2e. Evidence Sources
<p>Equality Act 2010 Tameside Statement of Community Involvement 2016 Draft Tameside Statement of Community Involvement 2020 Government Covid-19 Guidance The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework</p>

2f. Monitoring progress		
Issue / Action	Lead officer	Timescale
To liaise with Policy, Performance and Communications about creating and promoting a consultation with the public on the draft SCI.	William Partington	Complete
To liaise with Planning Policy about creating and hosting a consultation with the public on the draft SCI	Michael Clegg	Complete
To update this EIA once the results of the draft SCI consultation have been analysed	William Partington	Complete
Ensure Local Plan Consultation Database is kept updated.	Graham Holland	Ongoing
Ensure Development Management are abreast of any legislative changes concerning when to consult statutory consultees	Martyn Leigh	Ongoing

Signature of Contract / Commissioning Manager	Date
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Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form**

Graham Holland	2/11/2020
Signature of Assistant Director / Director	Date
Jeff Upton	2/11/2020