

# **Statement of Community Involvement Consultation Responses**

As part of the Local Plan process, Tameside Council is required to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The role of the SCI is to set out how the Council will involve the community in the preparation of future planning policy documents, as well as in the planning application process. The current SCI was adopted in 2006 and the Council produced a revised Consultation Draft Statement of Community Involvement during summer 2016 which will replace this to reflect changing circumstances. This includes changes to Regulations that guide Local Plan preparation and the decision to engage in production of a joint plan for Greater Manchester, the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF).

The SCI has therefore been updated to set out how consultation and community involvement will take place in respect of the Tameside Local Plan and the GMSF. As a statement of how the Council is proposing to engage communities and stakeholders in the planning process the Council felt it was important to consult on the draft SCI. As such the Council undertook a 4 week period of consultation on the Consultation Draft Statement of Community Involvement between Friday 1 July and Friday 29 July 2016.

A wide range of stakeholders were consulted including landowners, developers, key agencies, service providers, individuals and other interested parties. A public notice was displayed in the 30 June 2016 issue of the Reporter Newspaper alongside the issue of a general press release. The Consultation Draft SCI was made available for inspection on the Councils website, at local libraries and its customer service centre. Comments were invited in writing no later than Friday 29 July by either post, email or as part of the Councils Big Conversation portal.

During the consultation period the Council received **11** consultation responses from the following:

1. Mr Eddy
2. Historic England
3. Health and Safety Executive
4. Tameside Council Sustainable Travel Officer
5. Canal and River Trust
6. Natural England
7. Manchester Airport
8. Ms C Donnelly
9. Ms M Downs
10. Ms Masud
11. Mr McCormack

Comments received on the Consultation Draft SCI have been considered and revisions made where considered appropriate as detailed below.

No.	From	Precis of Comments	Council Response
1	Mr Eddy	The Consultation Draft Statement of Community Involvement contains a large number of acronyms. Why not mark it up with an explanation of what each one stands for?	The Council welcomes the comments received from Mr Eddy and will amend the SCI through the introduction of a glossary at Appendix 2.
2	Historic England	<p>Historic England is the Governments statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England... ..We champion and protect England's historic places, providing advice to local planning authorities, developer's owners and communities to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.</p> <p>Historic England do not have any comments to make on the Statement of Community Involvement.</p>	The Council welcomes the comments received from Historic England.
3	Health and Safety Executive	<p>Thank you for your request to provide a representation the Statement of Community Involvement consultation document. When consulted on land use planning matters, HSE where possible will make representations to ensure that compatible development within the consultation zones of major hazard establishments and major accident hazard pipelines is achieved.</p> <p>We have concluded that we have no representation to make at this stage of your local planning process. This is because there is insufficient information in the consultation document on the location and use class of sites that could be developed.</p> <p>HSE acknowledges that early consultation can be an effective way of alleviating problems due to incompatible development at the later stages of the planning process, and that we may be able to provide advice on development compatibility as your plan progresses. Therefore we would like to be consulted further on local plan documents where detailed land allocations and use</p>	The Council welcomes the comments received from the Health and Safety Executive and looks forward to working with them in the future.

		class proposals are made; eg. site specific allocations of land in development planning documents.	
4	Tameside Council Sustainable Travel Officer	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Tameside Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>Where an application affects a public right of way or its setting, this should be picked up during initial investigation by Planning Officers and that the public rights of way organisations are consulted along with the Sustainable Travel Officer. A similar scenario should apply to any cycle lanes / tracks in the borough.</p>	<p>The Council welcomes the comments received from the Sustainable Travel Officer and will continue to ensure effective engagement through pre application discussions and during the course of processing applications, consulting with not only statutory bodies but also a significant number of other non-statutory bodies in appropriate circumstances as detailed within the SCI.</p>
5	Canal and River Trust	<p>Thank you for your recent consultation in respect of the above mentioned draft Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>In general terms the draft SCI is welcomed and supported, clearly describing the consultation and engagement processes to be used by the Council in the preparation of planning policy and in determining planning applications and signposting how to engage with process.</p> <p>Pre-application discussions Reference to the Council involving 'other interested parties where their knowledge or expertise could assist with discussions' is welcomed.</p> <p>The Trust is keen to encourage pre-application consultation from applicants and local planning authorities on proposals likely to affect inland waterways that we own or manage, particularly where proposals are likely to have a significant impact on the waterway.</p> <p>The Trust would welcome the opportunity to work with you in respect of pre-application consultations for development within the</p>	<p>The Council welcomes the comments from the Canal and River Trust, looks forward to working with them in the future and notes the useful content of the material provided via the web link.</p> <p>The Council further welcomes the comments in relation to Neighbourhood Planning and will add at paragraph 2.50 that it will 'take a pragmatic approach to assisting established groups' in relation to public consultation.</p>

		<p>Trusts defined notifiable area where development is likely to impact upon the Trust's assets, or that applicants to be encouraged to discuss their proposals directly with the Trust where appropriate. (see attached link to the relevant part of the Trusts website:</p> <p><a href="https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/planning-and-design/the-trust-as-a-statutory-consultee-for-planning-applications/pre-application-consultations">https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/planning-and-design/the-trust-as-a-statutory-consultee-for-planning-applications/pre-application-consultations</a></p> <p>Consultation on Neighbourhood Plans Comments relating to consultation on Neighbourhood Plans are noted.</p> <p>It would perhaps be helpful if the Council could undertake to advise Neighbourhood Planning Groups about to start work on neighbourhood plans of known interest groups who may wish to be consulted on the production of their plan.</p>	
6	Natural England	<p>Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p>We are supportive of the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the general community, community organisation and statutory bodies in local planning matters, both in terms of shaping policy and participating in the process of determining planning applications</p> <p>However we have no specific comments to make on this consultation.</p>	The Council welcomes the comments from Natural England and looks forward to working with them in the future.
7	Manchester Airport	We are supportive of the general approach to consultation set out in the document and the intention to encourage greater community	The Council welcomes the comments from Manchester Airport, looks forward to working

		<p>involvement in the planning process</p> <p>However, we would request that Manchester Airport is listed as a specific consultation body within the SCI at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Tameside is well placed to both assist and benefit from the Airports role as a major transport and economic hub. It is therefore important for Manchester Airport to be involved in the consultation process when you are preparing planning documents. This will allow appropriate consideration of how the Airport impacts upon the borough and ensure that a suitable policy framework is put in place to enable Tameside to benefit from and contribute to the economic advantages and transport facilities that Manchester Airport brings to the region.</p> <p>Manchester Airport also has an influential role in the development management process due to our aerodrome safeguarding procedures and role as acting Aerodrome Safeguarding Authority. Manchester Airport is officially safeguarded to ensure that the safe operation of aircraft and future development potential is not compromised in any way by potentially hazardous development and activity at or in the vicinity of the airport.</p> <p>Tameside is located within Manchester Airport's safeguarded area and the LPA must therefore consult Manchester Airport as statutory consultee on any application that falls within the remit of Circular 1/2003 and criteria indicated on the safeguarding map. Specifically this includes; all buildings, structures, erections or works exceeding 90m in height in most areas of the Borough, and all applications for wind turbines in all areas of the Borough.</p>	<p>with them in the future and notes the requirements of planning application consultation.</p> <p>The Council notes the request to list the Airport as a Specific Consultation body. Specific consultation bodies however are those prescribed through The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>The Council however recognises the regional importance of the Airport and will add at Appendix 1 Manchester Airport on as a discretionary Specific Consultation body.</p> <p>It should be noted the airport already exist as a local plan consultation contact on the Local Plan consultation database.</p>
8	Ms C Donnelly Dukinfield	<p>Decision making section 3.32.</p> <p>Is there not a possible conflict of interest when the Assistant</p>	<p>The Council welcomes the comments from Ms Donnelly.</p>

		Executive Director for Development Growth and Investment is currently (and for the next 3 years) responsible for decision making in disposals (including Protected Green Spaces being offered for sale with indicative planning suggestions) also being responsible for planning decisions on these same Open Spaces?	The Statement of Community Involvement deals specifically with how the Council as the Local Planning Authority will involve people and organisations in both the plan making and decision taking process and is therefore not able to deal with this matter.
9	Ms M Downs Denton	<p>We feel that the council didn't make the general public aware of the consultation and most people who attended a consultation meeting about the proposed development of Two Trees were then made aware of it. The little information that was forwarded to people only went to a few and not to the whole of the community.</p> <p>We feel the proposals in make planning applications more transparent can only be a good thing, however, when the need to consult with the community, the council should have more of a say on how developers should consul to ensure that the maximum number of residents, business etc are reached and given the opportunity to have their say.</p> <p>When planning applications are being considered, that the infrastructure of an area is properly taken into consideration, for example, schools, the possibility of increased traffic, doctors, dentists. Any further monitoring regarding the possible impact on a community, for example traffic, then the monitoring should be done at the busiest times and not a normally quiet or weekends to take into account the rush hour times.</p>	<p>The Council welcomes the comments from Ms Downs.</p> <p>The Council publicised the consultation draft SCI via a number of methods, including press release, press notice, on its website and through hard copy documents at Council Libraries and Customer Service centre. In addition direct email or letters were sent to individuals and organisations who have either previously commented on planning policy documents or have asked to be notified via the Councils website. Anyone is able to register to receive such communication via the following link:</p> <p><a href="http://www.tameside.gov.uk/planning/ldf/sci">http://www.tameside.gov.uk/planning/ldf/sci</a></p> <p>The council will take a pragmatic approach in encouraging developers to undertake meaningful community engagement where appropriate, prior to the submission of their planning application as detailed within the SCI.</p> <p>The Statement of Community Involvement</p>

			deals specifically with how the Council as the Local Planning Authority will involve people and organisations in both the plan making and decision taking process and is therefore not able to deal with specific matters of planning applications.
10	Ms Masud Hyde	I think all is good and well.	The Council welcomes the comments from Ms Masud.
11	Mr McCormack Denton	Information has not really been forthcoming as stated in the Statement.  Information has been poor from Tameside, hence the formation of Dane Bank Green Space.  Educate the Councillors. Conflict of interest exists.	The Council welcomes the comments from Mr McCormack. The Statement of Community Involvement seeks to ensure that how and when the Council as the Local Planning Authority will involve members of the public in the planning process is clear and is therefore not able to deal with specific matters of planning applications.

### Post Consultation amendments

A number of minor grammatical amendments have been made to the SCI alongside the below change to the SCI following public consultation, prior to adoption for reasons of clarity:

Amendment	Reason
Text added at paragraph 2.48 "comments received during consultation periods on DPD's and SPD's should be made in writing and must include the name and address of the respondent, they cannot be treated in confidence and will be available for public inspection.	To be clear about how representations are expected to be made in relation planning policy documents and how they will be treated once submitted.



A number of other responses were received during the consultation period however either the representation did not relate to the consultation being undertaken or was a request to be notified about future planning policy consultations. These representations have therefore not been included in the above schedule of responses.