

Blakenall & Bloxwich Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 20th June 2005

Statement of Community Involvement

1. Brief summary of report

This report introduces a presentation on the Council's Statement of Community Involvement and its role in involving communities and key partners including the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships in town planning decisions.

2. Purpose of report

- To inform the Blakenall & Bloxwich LNP about the contents of the presentation that introduces the Statement of Community Involvement and the procedure for submitting comments

3. Recommendation

For the Blakenall & Bloxwich LNP to note the contents of the presentation that introduces the Statement of Community Involvement.

4. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

Each local planning authority, including Walsall, has a statutory requirement to produce a Statement of Community Involvement describing how and when it will involve the local community in both plan-making and planning application decisions. It should include a schedule setting out how and when the community (in particular 'hard to reach' groups) will be involved. The 'robustness' of the SCI will be independently tested by an independent inspector at an independent examination in public. Their subsequent report and recommendations will be legally binding.

A draft Statement of Community Involvement is currently being produced. The draft document is subject to a statutory consultation period of 6 weeks (between Mid June & end of July). During this period the council will be seeking the views of the community and key partners including the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships on the document.

5. The relationship to LNP Partnership Plan

The ability of Local Neighbourhood Partnerships to get involved and influence plan making should ensure that where appropriate and practicable they reflect the priorities of the LNP Partnership Plans.

6. Vision 2008

The ability of all sections of the community to influence town planning decisions, as a result of the presentation, will contribute to the following Council Priorities, identified in Vision 2008:

- Ensure a clean & green borough
- Ensure all people are safe & secure
- Make Walsall a healthy and caring place
- Encourage everyone to feel proud of Walsall

- Make it easier to access local services
- Listen to what people want

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