

Statement of Community Involvement

Consultation Statement (Regulation 28)

This document serves as a record of the consultation undertaken by the Council in preparing the Statement of Community Involvement.

This Consultation Statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulations 28(c) & 28(d) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. These Regulations require that a statement be prepared (this document) and published at the same time as the document is 'submitted' to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

Statutory Provisions

Regulation 28(1)(c) requires that a statement be prepared which sets out the following: -

- The bodies the Council consulted pursuant to Regulation 25(1). This refers to the consultation undertaken prior to the draft Statement of Community Involvement being published and is hereon referred to as 'early consultation'.
- How these bodies, and any other persons whom the authority have consulted, were consulted.
- A summary of the main issues raised in those consultations.

Regulation 28(1)(d) requires that the statement sets out the following: -
If representations were made under Regulation 27(2) (on the draft Statement of Community Involvement): -

- The number of representation made;
- A summary of the main issues raised in those representations; and
- How the main issues have been addressed in the Statement of Community Involvement – Submission Version.
- If no representations were made, a statement to that effect.

Pre-Submission Consultation Statement (Regulation 25)

This section details the early consultation undertaken on the draft Statement of Community Involvement and the community response to this consultation.

For the purpose of early consultation, the Council developed a questionnaire asking a series of questions on what the Statement of Community Involvement should contain. A copy of the questionnaire is available from the Council.

The process of preparing the SCI began in October 2005 when a wide range of organisations were sent a letter, questionnaire and pre-paid envelope aimed at finding out how they wished to be consulted and involved in planning issues. More than 1200 questionnaires were sent out and just under 200 were completed and returned.

The main issues for the SCI raised by this early consultation included :

1. *Concern about lack of feedback from previous consultations*
Part 3 of the SCI sets out how the Council involves the community after a decision is made on a Planning Application and when an Appeal is made

2. *Concerns about access to information on planning applications and allocating time and resources for effective consultation*
Part 2 of the SCI addresses Resource Availability

3. *Need for engagement with new and smaller community groups and local businesses. Making use of community forums / amenity groups / local user groups*
Part 2 of the SCI sets out how the Council will Promote Awareness of Involvement Opportunities and how it will Reach out to Barnet's Diverse Communities. Part 2 also sets out the role of the Barnet Local Strategic Partnership

4. *Need for clarification of consultation process and more transparency in decision making. Setting out how the community can influence decisions at an early stage and explaining the responsibilities of applicants for consultation*
Part 3 of the SCI sets out how the Council involves the community when a Planning Application is received, processed, goes to Committee and a decision is made and when an Appeal is made. Part 3 also sets out how else does the Council involve the Community

5. *Need to recognize that not everyone has access to the web*
Part 2 of the SCI clearly sets out the role of the Council's website as a key source of information. The Council will make information available in different formats.

6. *Several respondents considered it premature to comment prior to publication of the Draft SCI.*
The Council recognizes the difficulties of making comments at such an early stage. However early consultation on the SCI provided the opportunity for issues to be identified prior to formal consultation on the Draft SCI. The Council consulted on the questionnaire between September and November 2005

Questionnaire sent by post to the Mayor of London, the Highways Agency, and all local planning authorities adjoining the London Borough of Barnet

Required under Regulation 25(2)(b).

Questionnaire sent by post to the General Consultation Bodies as listed in Appendix 1 of the Submission SCI

Required under Regulation 25(1)(b).

Questionnaire sent by post to the Specific Consultation Bodies as listed in Appendix 1 of the Submission SCI

Questionnaire sent to Other Consultees and Voluntary Bodies as listed in Appendix 1 of the Submission SCI

Draft Statement Of Community Involvement Consultation Statement (Regulation 26)

This section details the consultation undertaken on the draft Statement of Community Involvement and the community response to this consultation.

The Council consulted on the draft Statement of Community Involvement (along with procedural information in the form of a Statement of Proposals Matters and consultation information commencing 16 February 2006 and finishing 30 March 2006 in the following manner

Draft Statement of Community Involvement and procedural information sent by post to the Mayor of London, the Highways Agency, and all local planning authorities adjoining the London Borough of Barnet

Required under Regulation 26(c)

Draft Statement of Community Involvement and procedural information sent by post to the Specific Consultation Bodies, General Consultation Bodies, and Other Consultees as listed in Appendix 1 of the Submission SCI

Required under Regulation 26(c)

Draft Statement of Community Involvement and procedural information sent by post to all those who responded to the early consultation (Document Consultees) as listed in Appendix 1.

Draft Statement of Community Involvement and procedural information made available at the Planning Office at Barnet House and at all Barnet Council libraries.

Required under Regulation 26(a)

Draft Statement of Community Involvement and procedural information available on the Barnet Council website.

Required under Regulation 26(b)

Notice by local advertisement of the Proposals Matters and the consultation information was given in The Press. A copy of the notice can be viewed at the Council's offices.

Required under Regulation 26(d)

Consultation on the Draft SCI generated a total of 127 representations from 27 separate individuals or organisations. This comprised 107 objections and 20 supporting comments. All representations are set out at **Response to Draft SCI Representations**

Required under Regulation 28(d)(i)(aa)

Common concerns amongst the Draft SCI objectors included: the availability of resources for consultation, a definition of 'community', distances for notification of planning applications, extended consultation periods at holiday times, requests for groups to be specifically named in the SCI. All representations are set out at

**Response to Draft SCI Representations
Required under Regulation 28(d)(i)(bb)**

The Council has sought to respond positively to objections, making changes to the SCI where it is practicable to do so. These changes are set out at **Response to Draft SCI Representations**. The Statement of Community Involvement – Submission Version has been substantially rewritten and modified to make the document easier to read and understand. Due to the scale of the changes no tracking of them has been made in the Statement of Community Involvement – Submission Version.

Required under Regulation 28(d)(i)(cc)