



Wigan Local Development Framework

**Revised Statement of Community
Involvement
Consultation Statement
January 2011**

Environmental Services Department

Wigan Council

- 1.1 This document sets out the consultation we carried out on the revision of our Statement of Community Involvement, what we have done, the representations received and our responses.
- 1.2 We sent an email or letter to selected consultees on 19 April 2010 to inform them of the intention to prepare a revision of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement. A copy is included in [Appendix 1](#). It was sent to bodies selected from the Local Development Framework consultation database including relevant authorities in the local area, general consultation bodies defined in government regulations and local bodies including those registered with the Wigan Borough Partnership as appropriate.
- 1.3 The email or letter invited comments on what the revised Statement of Community Involvement should contain. The deadline for response was 17 May 2010. By this date we received 12 comments from a range of organisations and individuals as follows:
 - 1 Councillor Cottam
 - 2 Coal Authority
 - 3 Mrs AA Freeman
 - 4 Horwich Parish Council
 - 5 Lancashire County Council
 - 6 Liverpool Airport
 - 7 Natural England
 - 8 Network Rail
 - 9 North West Development Agency
 - 10 Sport England
 - 11 United Utilities (Water)
 - 12 Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
- 1.4 Comments made at this stage and our replies may be found in the Interim Consultation Statement, September 2010. These were used to inform the preparation of the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement, where applicable. Other changes to the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement were made as a result of changes in the law and national policy on local spatial planning.
- 1.5 The draft revised Statement of Community Involvement was reported to Cabinet on 26 August 2010 with the recommendation that it be endorsed for public consultation for a period of 6 weeks.
- 1.6 The consultation period took place from noon on 16 September 2010 to noon on 28 October 2010. It was a wider event than in April/May 2010, and involved emailing or writing to all organisations, bodies and individuals on our community engagement database (see [Appendix 2](#) for a sample copy of letter/email).
- 1.7 The document was placed on deposit in all the libraries in the borough, on our website at www.wigan.gov.uk/StatementCommunityInvolvement and at our offices.
- 1.8 A total of 25 comments were received from 15 individuals as follows:

- 1 Coal Authority
- 2 Councillor Sweeny
- 3 County Bird Recorder
- 4 Environment Agency
- 5 Highways Agency
- 6 Ian Basley Associates
- 7 Lancashire County Council
- 8 Natural England
- 9 Network Rail
- 10 North West Development Agency
- 11 Mrs J Pinion
- 12 ProCo NW Limited
- 13 The Theatres Trust
- 14 Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
- 15 Mr D White

A summary of the comments and our replies is contained in [Appendix 3](#).

- 1.9 Comments received at this stage have been used to inform the revised Statement of Community Involvement, where applicable. Key stakeholders and a community representative were contacted by email to ensure they were happy with the minor changes proposed as a result of the consultation process and that no other issues needed to be addressed.
- 1.10 Cabinet considered the comments that were submitted at its meeting on 20 January 2011 with a recommendation to adopt the revised Statement of Community Involvement.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Wigan Statement of Community Involvement: Notice of proposed revision

As you will probably be aware, we are in the process of preparing a Local Development Framework that will guide future development in the borough. This is collection of documents including a Core Strategy which we consulted you about last year.

Local authorities are required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement setting out how and when the local community will be invited to participate in the production of the various Local Development Framework documents, and also how they are consulted on planning applications.

Our current Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in July 2006. This now needs to be updated to take account of changes made by Government to how planning policy documents are prepared and to reflect experience gained from Core Strategy consultation undertaken to date.

We are therefore about to undertake a review of our Statement of Community Involvement and invite you to put forward your views and suggestions as to what the revision should cover. The adopted Statement may be found at:

<http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/Planning/Policies/DevelopmentFramework/StatementCommunityInvolvement.htm>

Should you have any comments please forward them to the address below no later than **17 May 2010**.

Planning Policy,
Environmental Services Department,
Civic Buildings,
New Market Street,
Wigan WN1 1RP

Alternatively you may forward comments by email to: alison.jones@wigan.gov.uk

Or fax: 01942 404222

Please forward this email to members of your organisation if appropriate. This email replaces one sent to a few people on 22 March. If you have already forwarded comments these will be taken into consideration. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Alison Jones
Planning Officer

Dear Sir or Madam,

Wigan Statement of Community Involvement: Revised Draft for consultation

We are revising our Statement of Community Involvement and invite you to put forward your views and suggestions from 12 noon on 16 September to **12 noon on 28 October 2010**.

You can view the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement and submit comments online via our consultation portal at www.wigan.gov.uk/StatementCommunityInvolvement. You can also view or print a copy of this document and the Interim Consultation Statement.

The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how and when you can be involved in the preparation of the planning policy documents that make up our Local Development Framework, as well as being consulted on planning applications and development proposals. We need to revise it to take account of changes made by Government to how planning policy documents are prepared and to reflect experience gained from Core Strategy consultation undertaken to date. We want to ensure as wide a range of individuals and organisations have an opportunity to be involved as possible.

We undertook a 4-week period of notification of the intention to revise the statement from 19 April to 17 May 2010 during which time we received 12 comments from organisations and individuals, set out in the Interim Consultation Statement. We have used these to help prepare the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement.

Please forward any comments via the consultation portal or to the address below no later than **12 noon on 28 October 2010**. Alternatively you may use email or fax, also shown below.

Planning Policy,
Environmental Services Department,
Civic Buildings,
New Market Street,
Wigan WN1 1RP

Email to: alison.jones@wigan.gov.uk
Or fax: 01942 404222

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me and please also let me know if we are not using the correct contact details.

Yours faithfully,



Alison Jones
Planning Officer

Appendix 3

Full Name	Company / Organisation	Your comment	Our reply
Chapter 1: A short summary of our Statement of Community Involvement			
Mrs Elaine Walsh	ProCo North West Ltd	In para 1.1 you talk about the need to involve local people. In 3.1 you talk about the need to involve a much wider group - businesses, organisations, agencies - in my view it would be better if the initial statement in 1.1 recognised / mentioned this wider grouping.	Businesses, agencies and other groups added to paragraph 1.1.
Chapter 2: The planning system			
Mr John Litt	North West Development Agency	When the Council announced its intention to revise the SCI in April 2010, our initial comments referred to the introduction of integrated Regional Strategies under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. As noted in the Council's response, this has since been overtaken by the change of Government and the decision, on 6th July 2010, to revoke Regional Strategies. We note that the revised draft SCI has been amended to reflect these changes.	Noted.
Chapter 3: Our strategy for community involvement			
Mr John Hesketh	Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust	In paragraph 3.8, connection and provision for interaction with the LSP-wide consultation database and Wigan Borough Partnership's emerging Community Engagement Strategy would be helpful. The local COMPACT is now redundant and set for replacement with a Concordat on which the Third Sector Committee lead. Sian Jay (Policy, Partnership and Engagement Manager, Chief Executive Services) would be a useful contact. In respect of third sector business, Simon Dale (Policy and Planning Manager, Chief Executive Services) would be the best to advise.	We have consulted with the Local Strategic Partnership and with various officers internally whilst preparing the revised draft document. Reference to the COMPACT has been removed from paragraph 3.8. Generally new references will not be inserted if these are also likely to become out-of-date.
Chapter 4: Who will we involve?			
Mr John Hesketh	Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust	The PACT process has been cancelled. The Community Engagement Review underway, led by Steve Peddie (Service Director - Transformation) and Sian Jay, will offer a new way forward. Reference to the Third Sector Assembly under development, commitment and liaison/extension of opportunity in that direction would also be worthwhile. What strategic links with the Area Management Programme, Electoral College Proposals in terms of community representation at thematic delivery partnership level, JSNA process, Joint Intelligence Unit and Single Commissioning Agency?	Noted. References to particular bodies and processes are only made with the commitment that if they cease to exist, successor bodies will be consulted or if new relevant bodies are created, these will be consulted if appropriate. Specific strategic links are also not included to avoid them becoming out-of-date.

Rose Freeman	Theatres Trust	Para.4.16 could be made clearer by adding that contact details to add or delete or amend consultees' information can be found in Appendix E.	'If you wish to be added to or removed from the database at any other time please contact us (see Appendix E).' added to paragraph 4.16.
Chapter 5: How will we involve you?			
Janet Belfield	Natural England	Natural England strongly supports community-planning initiatives and we encourage effective community involvement within the planning system, including the preparation of the LDF. It is one of our key principles that community involvement is considered essential to the achievement of our environmental outcomes in the new planning system. Local planning authorities are therefore encouraged to look at how they can successfully engage communities on these issues, and reflect this in the SCI.	Support welcomed. Details of how we consult are set out in Section 5.
Chapter 8: Community involvement in planning applications			
Mrs A Judith Smith	Greater Manchester Bird Recording Group	Please can you send me lists of weekly planning applications by email, so that I can alert officers to planning applications which are potentially harmful to birdlife. especially with reference to potential locations of Barn Owls for which I am a Sch 1 Licence Holder. At the time of my last enquiry, some years ago now, I was told that as Councillors did not receive planning applications by email, neither could others. Hopefully this situation has now changed?	Whilst we do not actually send out lists of applications received, we have provided a link to our website where the weekly list of applications is published. This is the method by which we advise our Ward Councillors of current applications You can access the weekly list by following this link: http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/Planning/Residential/ . The updated list is available on Mondays and so if you check the website each week by following the link provided you will be up to date with all of our current applications.
Janet Belfield	Natural England	We would welcome notification of decisions to planning applications on which we have made comment, as unfortunately we do not have the resources to research these individually ourselves.	Unfortunately it is not possible to update statutory consultees on the outcomes of all applications on which they are consulted, however all decisions are available on our website.
Chapter 9: Resource implications			
Councillor Carl Sweeney	Wigan Council	In the current financial climate, the Council is right to carefully consider the appropriateness and cost implications of consultation. Press advertising is particularly expensive and consideration should be made to size and word content of such advertisements as this usually heavily influences its cost. Is there scope to reduce the page space size of advertisements or word count to reduce costs?	We only use press advertisements when we have a statutory obligation to do so and include only content that is necessary.

Appendix C: Consultees for the Local Development Framework			
Councillor Carl Sweeney	Wigan Council	Some of these bodies listed will be abolished during the lifetime of the document. Subsequent amendments or online versions should make reference to successor organisations as they emerge.	Reference to this is already included in the opening paragraph.
Janet Belfield	Natural England	We would welcome specific reference to Natural England and our role in as a statutory consultee in Local Development Frameworks. We support the drive for e-planning, and assume that you will consult us electronically for LDF related consultations. Where documents or consultations exceed 5Mb we request CDs. We are experiencing difficulty with receipt of large attachments by email.	Natural England is included in list of Specific consultation bodies in Appendix C. We normally consult electronically or send web links if documents are large.
Phil Megson	Lancashire County Council	I note that Lancashire County Council is included in the list of consultees at Appendix C. I do not wish to make any further comments.	Comments noted
Mr Carl Banton	Coal Authority	The Coal Authority welcomes the SCI's commitment to seeking the views of Specific Consultation Bodies during the production of LDF documents. The inclusion of The Coal Authority within the list of Specific Consultation Bodies at Appendix C is particularly supported.	Support welcomed.
Mr Nick Basely	Ian Baseley Associates	We wish to know if the Showmans Guild are registered as a Stakeholder.	The Showman's Guild are on our engagement database and are now included in the list of 'other consultees'.
Mrs Elaine Walsh	ProCo North West Ltd	Appendix C lists the consultation bodies - this includes the FE and HE sector - ProCo is a work based learning provider and I would like to see all the post 16 sector involved not just the colleges. In this section you also have the Learning and Skills Council listed - this organisation no longer exists. It has been replaced by the Skills Funding Agency and the Young Peoples Learning Agency.	Appendix C amended to acknowledge work based learning providers and updated to take account of changes.
Appendix D: List of standard consultees in development management			
Janet Belfield	Natural England	We would welcome specific reference to Natural England and our role in as a statutory consultee in Development Management. We would of course welcome generous consultation timeframes which allow us to be effectively involved in the planning system and consult us electronically and provide a CD if documents exceed 5MB.	Natural England is added to the list of standard consultees in Appendix D. Statutory consultees are given 21 days to respond. It is not possible to allow a longer consultation period as this would affect our ability to determine applications in a timely manner. We are moving towards electronic consultation in development management and send CDs of plans where applicable.

Mr John Litt	North West Development Agency	We welcome the Agency's inclusion on the list of specific consultation bodies on LDFs at Appendix C. NWDA has, however, been omitted from the list of statutory consultees on planning applications at Appendix D. NWDA is currently a statutory consultee on certain types of application under Article 10(1)(zc) of the General Development Procedure Order.	Omitted in error. Now reinstated.
Diane Clarke	Network Rail	With regard to the above policy Network Rail would like to make the following comments: All planning applications and policy statements should be issued to TownPlanning.LNW@networkrail.co.uk or via post to: Town Planning Team LNW, Network Rail, 1st Floor, Square One, 4 Travis Street, Manchester, M1 2NY Network Rail Town Planning should also be contacted where there are any proposed mining or waste planning applications submitted, they should also be sent to the addresses above. Please see the Network Rail Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS) which gives guidance on proposed railway schemes and projects and will provide a useful guide for the council.	Noted. This contact address is included on our engagement database. The Route Utilisation Strategy is included in our Accessibility evidence and in Topic Paper 8 on Accessibility available at www.wigan.gov.uk/ldfcorestrategy .
Mr Carl Banton	Coal Authority	The Coal Authority also supports the commitment to seeking the views of statutory consultees on planning applications, along with the inclusion of The Coal Authority within the list of statutory consultees at Appendix D.	Support welcomed.
Appendix E: Access to information and how to contact us			
Councillor Carl Sweeney	Wigan Council	Platt Bridge is two separate words under Development Management - West of the borough.	Correction made.
Mr Des White		Extend the consultation time and contact local groups to inform their members and send out feed-back forms to prove involvement.	Groups and individuals can register to receive consultations directly if they feel their representatives are not feeding information effectively. Time periods for consultation need to be pre-defined in order to meet statutory requirements but a minimum of 4 weeks is given.
General comments			
Mrs Helen Telfer	Environment Agency	No objection or comment.	Noted.

Mr John Hesketh	Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust	There are questions on audience and format, accessibility and implementation that occur on reading and reflection. Presently the audience is unclear and within the document there would appear elements of duplication (it feels as though, logically, section 8 could be integrated in sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 for example). The document is lengthy and from an uninitiated point of view the community involvement 'journey' is difficult to track. Rationalisation, a process diagram and schedule of works or forward action plan would help I think - from clarity and accountability perspectives. Likewise, a case study or two in evidence of positive community influence, relationships/third sector capacity built and sustained.	The audience for the document is set out in Section 4 'Who will we involve?' Section 8 is deliberately kept separate as the planning application process is completely separate from the development plan document preparation process. Although there are similarities in approach the processes they cover are unrelated. Additional case studies would add unnecessarily to the length of the document.
Mrs Jean Pinion		Plans not available at Golborne library.	Libraries do hold copies of our documents but not planning applications - you need to use the library's computers to access these on the web.
		Schools plans progressed even when locals do not want them and they are not needed.	The Building Schools for the Future proposal was a separate consultation that never reached the planning application stage. Neither was it a development plan proposal, so not directly relevant to the Statement of Community Involvement.
		Natural England are surprised to be consulted.	Natural England are a statutory consultee for the development plan and for relevant planning applications and are consulted.
		What plans has the Sustainable Community Strategy produced?	The Sustainable Community Strategy is a brief overarching strategy for the borough. It includes priorities not proposals. Proposals are worked up in lower tier plans such as the Local Development Framework.
		Golborne Island is an eyesore.	Golborne Island is on the East Lancashire Road, a local highway. It is not significant national infrastructure. Works would have to be paid for out of local highway grant against other priorities, and funding is subject to significant cuts. The Local Transport Plan is the appropriate plan and this issue is not directly relevant to the Statement of Community Involvement.
		Provide explanations for 'spatial planning' and 'land use planning'.	Spatial Planning is explained in Appendix A. Words have been amended slightly.

		The Council is causing problems in schools by building more homes.	School places are officially provided on the basis of 3 children per school year per 100 houses. The majority of homes are built by the private sector to meet housing need and housing market requirements.
		More information is needed on where deprived areas are.	Information on deprivation in the Borough comes from the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007, which compares all areas throughout the country. Further information available in our Topic Paper 3 Community development and involvement available at www.wigan.gov.uk/ldfcorestrategy and also on our web site at www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/CommunityLiving/PopulationMigration/WiganDeprivationIndex.htm See Report 5 - Indices of Deprivation 2007
		Where do figures come from for groups of people?	The Office for National Statistics have very recently announced the results of a national survey on this, which showed lower than estimated numbers of gay people. White people form around 97% of the population in Wigan Borough.
		What are the matters of detail that have been resolved?	The matters of detail were resolved by phone and email and concerned factual corrections to the text in paragraphs 3.8, 3.12, 4.21 and 5.1 and also in relation to recent work on Equality Impact Assessment to reflect current working practice.
		Why doesn't the council sell off unused buildings to raise money?	An Accommodation Strategy is looking into council owned buildings with the objective of selling as much of the surplus as possible, but this is not easy or necessarily appropriate in the economic downturn when demand and values are low.
		Where can I see the Annual Monitoring Report?	The planning process is transparent. Everything significant that we produce is published on our website. It would be very difficult, time consuming and expensive to make it widely available in paper format.
Ms Diane Kisiel	Highways Agency	Thank you for the notification of the revised SCI. The Agency has no specific comments on the revised document.	Noted.