

**INSPECTOR'S REPORT**  
**KENNET**  
**STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

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Date: June 2005



## **Kennet District Council – Statement of Community Involvement (February 2005)**

### **INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

#### Introduction

1.1 An independent examination of the Kennet County Council Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been carried out in accordance with section 20 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act. Following paragraph 3.10 of Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks the examination has been based on the 9 tests set out (see Appendix A). The starting point for the assessment is that SCI is sound. Accordingly changes are made in this binding report only where there is clear need in the light of tests in PPS12

1.2 A total of 35 comments were received from 25 groups and individuals, all of which have been considered.

#### Test i

2.1 This test has been met as demonstrated by the detail provided in the document: "Community Engagement in Preparing the SCI (February 2005)."

#### Test ii

3.1 The SCI provides detailed information about how it intends to carry out the consultation with the community at different levels. Paragraphs 4.26-4.30 under the heading 'Links with Community Planning' state clearly how the SCI will link to other strategies and initiatives.

#### Test iii

4.1 In appendix 3, the statutory bodies are referred to as 'specific bodies' which may not be a meaningful term to the general public.

Required Change: in appendix 3, change the description "Specific Consultation Bodies" to "Statutory Consultation Bodies", a phrase used elsewhere in the document.

#### Test iv

5.1 Paragraphs 3.28-3.91 (inclusive) provide information on how the authority will involve the community in the early stages of plan preparation and how this exercise will be carried out throughout the process. Appendix 6 lists the methods used by the Council to reach different groups.

This test is met.

#### Test v

6.1 The SCI provides detailed information on the types of consultation at different stages of the community involvement in Appendices 4-7. Appendix 8 further illustrates the methods to be used at different stages of the LDF preparation.

This test has been met.

#### Test vi

7.1 The SCI does recognise the resource implications related to community involvement. Paragraphs 7.1-7.9 provide a detailed description of resource availability and its proper management.

This test is met.

#### Test vii

8.1 The SCI provides sufficient information on the above question in paragraphs 3.87 to 3.91.

This test is met

#### Test viii

9.1 Paragraphs 6.1 to 6.11 provide detailed information related to the review of the SCI.

This test is met

#### Test ix

10.1 Paragraphs 5.1 to 5.13 provide detailed information on the council's policy for planning applications.

This test is met.

#### Conclusion

Subject to amendment in accordance with the above required changes the Kennet District Council Statement of Community Involvement (February 2005) is sound.

K Holland  
Inspector

**APPENDIX A**  
**TESTS OF SOUNDNESS**



## **Examination of the soundness of the statement of community involvement**

3.10 The purpose of the examination is to consider the soundness of the statement of community involvement. The presumption will be that the statement of community involvement is sound unless it is shown to be otherwise as a result of evidence considered at the examination. A hearing will only be necessary where one or more of those making representations wish to be heard (see Annex D). In assessing whether the statement of community involvement is sound, the inspector will determine whether the:

- i. local planning authority has complied with the minimum requirements for consultation as set out in Regulations;<sup>1</sup>
- ii. local planning authority's strategy for community involvement links with other community involvement initiatives e.g. the community strategy;
- iii. statement identifies in general terms which local community groups and other bodies will be consulted;
- iv. statement identifies how the community and other bodies can be involved in a timely and accessible manner;
- v. methods of consultation to be employed are suitable for the intended audience and for the different stages in the preparation of local development documents;
- vi. resources are available to manage community involvement effectively;
- vii. statement shows how the results of community involvement will be fed into the preparation of development plan documents and supplementary planning documents;
- viii. authority has mechanisms for reviewing the statement of community involvement; and
- ix. statement clearly describes the planning authority's policy for consultation on planning applications.

*From:* Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks

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<sup>1</sup> The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations, 2004