OLDHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 1 PRO-FORMA FOR THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Department Chief Executive's		Section Strategic Planning and Information	Person responsible for the assessment		Paul McGrath	
Name of the Policy to be assessed	Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)		**Date of Assessment**	1st March 2006	**Is this a new or existing policy**	New
1. Describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy			The SCI is concerned with achieving greater community involvement in the planning processes, both the Local Development Framework and planning applications.			
2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy, please explain			Using different techniques for consulting different groups, including the Hard To Reach groups (see page 19 of Regulation 25 Draft SCI).			
3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and in what way			Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Developers, Councillors, Non-planning officers. Understanding the new processes, both LDF and Development Control/Understanding decision-making process, including Council's requirements/How individuals and organisations can become involved in planning/Educational.			
4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy?			Empowering Oldhamers to actively participate in the planning of their Borough.			
5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?			General apathy of public towards planning. Failure of technology / services. Unforeseen / unavoidable circumstances. Complexity of the subject – planning has a very technical/legalistic language that could be off-putting.			

6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy	Those with an interest in the Borough - Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Developers, Councillors, Non-planning officers.	**7. Who implements the policy and who is responsible for the policy?**	Strategic Planning and Information team (Principal Planning Officer) and Development Control section (Head of Planning Services)
8. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact on racial groups.	Y	N	The policy could have impact on BME groups, i.e. language barriers, timings of meetings. However, within the SCI there are "Hard To Reach" groups identified and Table 1 lists techniques that could be used to consult with the community. OMBC officers will need to be mindful of, and sensitive towards, the specific requirements of these different groups. To overcome this impact, planning documents could be made available in alternative formats or could make use of the Translation Service if requested.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
9. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact due to gender	Y	N	The policy could have impact on gender groups. However, within the SCI there are "Hard To Reach" groups identified and Table 1 lists techniques that could be used to consult with the community. OMBC officers will need to be mindful of, and sensitive towards, the specific requirements of these different groups. This could mean such things as when consulting women groups a need to be aware of matters relating to schools when setting timings and locations of meeting/exhibitions
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			

10. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact due disability	Y	N	The policy could have impact on disability. However, within the SCI there are "Hard To Reach" groups identified and Table 1 lists techniques that could be used to consult with the community. OMBC officers will need to be mindful of, and sensitive towards, the specific requirements of these different groups. This could include issues such as the accessibility of buildings/venues where meetings are held, making documents available in Braille, using the loop system for hard of hearing people.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
11. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact on people due to sexual orientation	Y	N	The policy could have impact on people due to sexual orientation. However, within the SCI there are "Hard To Reach" groups identified and Table 1 lists techniques that could be used to consult with the community. OMBC officers will need to be mindful of, and sensitive towards, the specific requirements of these different groups. This could mean holding meetings in a safe environment / location where people will be encouraged to contribute their views about the planning system and the future of the Borough.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			

12. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact on people due to their age	**Y**	**N**	The policy could have impact on people due to age. However, within the SCI there are "Hard To Reach" groups identified and Table 1 lists techniques that could be used to consult with the community. OMBC officers will need to be mindful of, and sensitive towards, the specific requirements of these different groups. For older people, this impact could result from a reluctance/ability to use IT. For young people (under 21s), this could result from a general reluctance to engage with official processes, which could be addressed by making use of OMBC Youth Service.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
13. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact on people due to their religious belief	**Y**	**N**	The policy could have impact on people due to religious belief. However, within the SCI there are "Hard To Reach" groups identified and Table 1 lists techniques that could be used to consult with the community. OMBC officers will need to be mindful of, and sensitive towards, the specific requirements of these different groups. This could mean when consulting being aware of the timings/ venues for meetings.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			

14. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact on people due to them having dependants/caring responsibilities	Y	N	The policy could have impact on people due to dependents/caring responsibilities. However, within the SCI there are "Hard To Reach" groups identified and Table 1 lists techniques that could be used to consult with the community. OMBC officers will need to be mindful of, and sensitive towards, the specific requirements of these different groups. This could mean when consulting being aware of the timings/ venues for meetings, access issues, and provision of care facilities.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
15. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact on people due to their offending past	Y	N	The policy could have impact on people due to their offending past. However, within the SCI there are "Hard To Reach" groups identified and Table 1 lists techniques that could be used to consult with the community. OMBC officers will need to be mindful of, and sensitive towards, the specific requirements of these different groups.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			

16. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact on people due to them being transgendered or transsexual	Y	N	The policy could have impact on people due to people being transgender/transsexual. However, within the SCI there are "Hard To Reach" groups identified and Table 1 lists techniques that could be used to consult with the community. OMBC officers will need to be mindful of, and sensitive towards, the specific requirements of these different groups. This could mean holding meetings in a safe environment / location where people will be encouraged to contribute their views about the planning system and the future of the Borough.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
17. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact on people due issues surrounding poverty	Y	N	The policy could have impact on people due to issues surrounding poverty; such as lack of access to IT or transport or child care costs. However, within the SCI there are "Hard To Reach" groups identified and Table 1 lists techniques that could be used to consult with the community. OMBC officers will need to be mindful of, and sensitive towards, the specific requirements of these different groups.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
18. Could the differential impact identified in 8-17 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy	**YES**	NO	There could be adverse impact but these issues have been identified and investigated as part of the EqIA process. The policy will mitigate these adverse impacts through the use of a variety of consultation techniques highlighted above and in the SCI itself.

19. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason	YES	**NO**	Please explain for each equality heading (question 8-16) on a separate piece of paper		
20. Should the policy proceed to a partial impact assessment	YES	**NO**	21. If Yes, is there enough evidence to proceed to a full EIA	YES	NO
			22. Date on which Partial or Full impact assessment to be completed by		

Signed (completing officer) Paul McGrath

Signed (Lead Officer)   Andrew Fletcher
(Assistant Chief Executive – Special Projects)