



## Wigan Local Development Framework **Statement of Community Involvement**



### **Pre-Submission Consultation Statement**

**September 2005**



## **Pre-Submission Consultation Statement (Regulation 28 Statement)**

This statement sets out the measures undertaken by Wigan Council to involve the community in the preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

It is a requirement under Part 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 to undertake consultation and participation on the SCI before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

### Consultation under Regulation 25

Before preparing the Statement of Community Involvement we consulted with the bodies set out in Appendix A (those highlighted in bold ink). These bodies included the statutory consultees as required by regulation 25, elected representatives and key contacts for the Wigan Borough Partnership, townships and community network groups.

These bodies were consulted by letter (in May 2005) in which we set out our intentions for the SCI. This information was also placed on the council's website. A copy of the version of the letter sent to the Wigan Borough Partnership, townships and community network groups is provided in Appendix B. The content of letters varied slightly to reflect the intended audience, (please note, the letter sent to the statutory consultees incorporated only briefing note B).

In response to this pre-submission consultation, we received one response from Government Office for the North West (GONW). This was an informal response providing advice on appropriate guidance to follow. GONW suggested that we 'liase with the Greater Manchester Geological Unit (GMGU) to ensure a consistent approach [was] taken on minerals and waste issues across the Greater Manchester SCIs'. In response, we liased with GMGU and agreed an appropriate paragraph for insertion into the draft SCI.

A SCI project group was set up to inform the preparation of the SCI. Project group members included community representatives and key officers (across the council) in the field of community engagement best placed to promote good practice and reflect the needs and aspirations of Wigan's local communities and other stakeholders. The thoughts and ideas of the project group were fed directly into the production of the draft SCI.

Given that the SCI was the first LDF document to be produced as part of the new Local Development Framework (LDF), a general awareness raising exercise was also undertaken. This involved:

- Sending letters to all UDP consultees to introduce the LDF process and provide an opportunity to register their interest in the LDF.
- An article was placed in our Borough Life Magazine to introduce the LDF process and to provide all local residents with the opportunity to register their interest in the LDF.
- The community engagement database was promoted by means of above.

### Consultation under Regulation 26

We then concluded preparation of a draft SCI, and carried out consultation on this draft for a six week period from Friday 15 July 2005 to Friday 26 August 2005. Appendix A includes a list of those bodies consulted directly under Regulation 26 (please note, this does not include individual members of the public). Consultation at this stage involved:

- The document, including a statement of the proposals matters was made available for inspection at all Wigan Borough libraries, Wigan and Leigh Town Halls and the Planning Office, Wigan.
- The document and proposals matters was available on our website, with a statement explaining where and when paper copies of the document were available for inspection (see appendix C).
- We placed an advertisement in the Wigan Evening Post and the Leigh Journal on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2005 (see appendix D).
- We sent copies of the document (263 in total), along with the proposals matters and details of where the documents were available for inspection to 38 statutory consultees, 68 partnership groups, 90 elected representatives including adjacent Parish Councils and 67 local groups and organisations on our community engagement database (see appendix E).
- In addition, developers and agents, local businesses and the general public (contacts from the community engagement database) were sent a letter informing them that the SCI was available for comment (248 in total).

We received a total of 40 representations on the draft SCI. 9 of these fully supported the consultation standards set out in the consultation draft SCI. The remaining 31 representations have been fully considered and changes have been made to the draft SCI for submission.

A copy of the comments forms is provided in Appendix F along with a brief analysis of responses received. A summary of the main issues raised and the way they were addressed in the SCI is outlined in Appendix G.

Some representations asked for additional bodies/persons to be included on our database. We have done this.