

Consultation Strategy for the West NEWcastle (Benwell Scotswood) Area Action Plan

Introduction

- 1.1 A multi-disciplinary team of consultants being led by EDAW is working alongside Newcastle City Council (NCC) to develop an Area Action Plan (AAP) to drive forward the regeneration of the Scotswood Benwell area of Newcastle.
- 1.2 As part of the process of the developing the Area Action Plan, NCC are keen to ensure the community and key stakeholders are part of the process and have a chance to add their views to the debate, to help shape the AAP.
- 1.3 Central Government requires Local Authorities to prepare and consult upon Development Plans for their areas. The Benwell Scotswood Area Action Plan is classed as a Development Plan Document (DPD). A DPD has the highest status of all planning documents and will consequently have the most scrutiny, including independent examination by a Planning Inspector.
- 1.4 To support the in depth consultation programme that was conducted during the development stages of the 'Parameters Report' and the 'Preferred Options', this document sets-out the consultation programme for the pre-submission stage of the preferred option.
- 1.5 In 2004 the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduced a new Planning System for England. A key objective of the new system is to strengthen community involvement. As such this document conforms to **Part 6 of the Town and Country Regulations Sept 2004 and to the Submission Draft of NCC's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), September 2004.**

Who

- 2.1 There are a large number of organisations as well as individuals who may have an interest in shaping the future of Benwell and Scotswood. The new Planning Act and related regulations set out consultation standards which the Council must meet as a minimum. During this consultation stage the Council must write to specific bodies and organisations and these are specifically named or described in government guidance. Appendices ?? and ?? list the 'specific' consultees and 'standard' national and regional consultees specifically for Newcastle and subsequently the Benwell and Scotswood AAP Area.

2.2 In order to exceed these standards, the Council will endeavour to engage more people and organisations than are currently involved. The following list gives an overview of those we will involve in the process. Appendix ??? lists in full the organisations and individuals involved as summarised below.

The General Public:

- residents of the AAP area and adjacent neighbourhoods
- those who work in the AAP area
- educational establishments in the AAP area
- local neighbourhood and resident groups
- other community and neighbourhood based groups
- groups representing black and ethnic minority communities
- groups representing the young and the city's elders
- groups representing disabled and the city's elders
- faith groups

Political representatives:

- parish and ward councillors
- executive members
- MPs and MEPs

Providers of public services:

- utility providers
- telecommunications operators
- transport companies

Statutory Procedures

3.1 In the past the Council in preparing development plans has depended heavily on formal written forms of consultation, though with some use of more interactive techniques. Under the new system local authorities are encouraged to involve people in the process as early as possible and to do so in ways that maximise the involvement of all sections of the community. Building on the innovative consultation techniques that have been used in the early development stages of the AAP Preferred Options Report (e.g. one big week), the following sets out the methodology that will be adopted during the eight week¹ statutory consultation period.

3.2 'Specific' consultees and 'standard' national and regional consultees

All individuals and organisations listed in appendix ?? and ?? (DPD bodies) and the providers of public services found in appendix ?? will

¹ Obligatory statutory period 6 weeks

