

The Cheadle Unite response (from residents and the committee) regarding the 'Draft Statement of Community involvement' including general engagement with the community and wider regional bodies is as follows:

- 1) We are disappointed at the lack of feedback from SMDC regarding the planning inspector review last year. Residents have committed significant time and effort into representations, Planning inspection hearings and various town plans and despite action groups requesting (via our representations and requesting to be kept informed and included in verbal representations) we have had no appropriate feedback on the findings of the Planning inspector or in fact any decisions made in response to residents. We request that future consultation is acknowledged and responded to as positive encouragement of public interaction, instead of merely regenerating lengthy documents with buried information. SMDC clearly has time to produce large documents, as courtesy, a summarised response to action groups and residents is not a big ask.
- 2) Residents welcome section 2.26 regarding the 'Localism Act' and would like a requirement for clear evidence i.e. documented dates of meetings and minutes of meetings of SMDC and the 'other public bodies' e.g. Stoke-on-Trent Council that comply with the spirit of the Localism Act' to be detailed in the final Statement of Community Involvement documentation. This would demonstrate that senior management at SMDC are in fact committed to supporting Stoke on Trent and regeneration of the wider region (formerly detailed under the Regional Spatial Strategy) . The detailed documents should be a public record and will provide part of the evidence required for section 2.27. Further we believe that representatives from locals and interested groups should be given adequate opportunity and notice to attend these meetings. The level of transparency requested is in response to the lack of evidence that this has occurred to date.
- 3) Residents request a similar level of transparency should apply to SMDC internal strategy and policy meetings and that these meetings be documented with minutes and form a public record. It should be standard policy that decisions and reasons must have documented minutes.
- 4) Residents request appropriate information, support and interaction from suitably qualified staff (points of contact) within SMDC on the Localism bill focused on supporting and protecting the interests of the council tax payers in the Staffordshire Moorlands area.
- 5) Residents would like transparency on the internal financial drivers and motivators with traceability and an accountability diagram within the hierarchy of SMDC, including access to levels of senior and executive staff pay and any bonus schemes included in the 'Statement of Community Involvement' or any other equally promoted and circulated material. The level of detail requested is in response to the disparity between what many would regard as a common sense strategy for the environment and community and actual policies to date.
- 6) Future Plans for Cheadle must take into account, the various costly studies and assessments carried out around Cheadle. Examples include; The Local Transport Plan for Staffordshire (Cheadle Strategy 2000) highlighting road infrastructure requirements, Sustainability Appraisals and Site Assessments detailing areas and scores including considered green field sites around Cheadle. These documents must not be buried for convenience and should be considered alongside assessments made for the land on 'other public bodies' and surrounding areas (identified in 2 above) as part of a rationale for housing allocation, for example in comparison to Brownfield sites around the Potteries.

Cheadle Unite
27th April 2014