

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE LOCAL PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP
23 JANUARY 2006

Local Development Framework: response to the draft Statement of Community Involvement

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The draft Statement of Community Involvement was placed on deposit from 25 November 2005 to 6 January 2006. This report summarises the representations received during the deposit period and recommends appropriate changes to the draft Statement of Community Involvement for submission to the Secretary of state as set out in Appendix A.
- 1.2 The Contact Officer for this report is Grant Audley-Miller, Section Head (Environmental Planning & Conservation) 01235 540343.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 *That the Strategic and Local Planning Advisory Group recommend the Executive to:*

- 1) *Consider the representations made to the draft Statement of Community Involvement and agree the recommendations set out in the attached schedule*
- 2) *Approve the draft Statement of Community Involvement to the Secretary of State for submission as amended in Appendix A*
- 3) *That prior to the publication of the draft Statement of Community Involvement minor and editorial and presentational amendments be delegated to the Assistant Director (Planning)*

3.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies

3.1 This report complies with the Council's Vision Statement and aims.

4.0 The draft Statement of Community Involvement

- 4.1 The Draft Statement of Community Involvement was placed on deposit from 25 November 2005 to 6 January 2006. It was sent free to all the Consultation Bodies contained in Appendix 1 and the List of Bodies and Organisations in Appendix 2 of the draft Statement. In addition over 200 individuals and other organisations who had previously expressed interest on being kept up to date on progress on the Local Plan were notified by letter of the publication of the draft Statement.
- 4.2 The document and the forms for making representations were available at the Local Services Points in Abingdon and Wantage and the Council's offices at Faringdon, at libraries throughout the district and at Didcot and the Westgate Centre.
- 4.3 Notices were placed in the Oxford Mail and the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald at the start of the consultation period. A press release was sent out to the media identified in Appendix 2 of the draft Statement and resulted in articles in the Oxford Mail and the Herald series. In addition an informal notice was placed in Council News. The document and representation forms were also available at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy/LDF which included a downloadable version of the document together with forms for making comments.

5.0 Consultation Responses

- 5.1 Over 60 individuals and organisations made a total of just over 120 representations. 28 were representations in support and 71 were comments. 26 representations were submitted by e-mail.
- 5.2 Out of the 120 representations received there were 46 general complaints and Chapter 6 Community Involvement in Planning Applications received the most, a total of 30
- 5.3 The Officers have been encouraged by the nature of the representations received. There were a significant proportion that supported the SCI and many were concerned to ensure that the representee was included on the SCI database and that they would continue to be kept informed on progress on the preparation of local development documents. Other key themes of the representations were concerns that consultation periods for planning applications are too short and that consultation on both planning applications and development plan documents should involve as many groups and organisations as possible.
- 5.4 Officers attended a meeting of the Youth Forum to explain the process. The response was that short summary documents should be used wherever possible and made as colourful and attractive as possible and it would be helpful if officers could visit schools for consultation exercises with students. These are matters of detail but should be kept in mind when designing consultation leaflets and arranging consultation events in the future. Officers have agreed to regularly update the Forum on progress on the LDF.
- 6.0 **Other Changes to the draft Statement of Community Involvement**
- 6.1 The officers have taken the opportunity to re-examine the document and suggest a number of changes to add clarity and update and correct the draft for formal submission. These changes are in addition to the recommendations set out in the schedule and are both highlighted.
- 7.0 **Next Stages**
- 7.1 Following approval by Council the Statement of Community Involvement will be submitted to the Secretary of State in March and a request for a public examination will be lodged. It is not known at this stage if the examination will be undertaken solely by written representations or if any objector might wish for a formal hearing.

RODGER HOOD
Assistant Director (Planning)

TIM SADLER
Strategic Director

Background Papers: