



South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document

Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment Adoption Statement

Introduction

South Cambridgeshire District Council adopted the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) on 30 January 2007.

This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (16) (3) and (4), which require a statement to be produced on adoption of a plan or programme, to detail:

1. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
2. How the Environmental Report has been taken into account;
3. How opinions expressed through public consultation have been taken into account;
4. The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
5. The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

Planning Policy Statement 12 widens these considerations from environmental, to broader sustainability issues, so that this statement provides information on the wider sustainability appraisal process.

This statement examines each of these points in turn.

1. How sustainability considerations have been integrated into the plan

The LDF aims to improve the overall quality of life for residents of South Cambridgeshire in a way which will also benefit future generations. Taking a sustainable approach to economic, social and environmental issues is at the heart of the plan and will be closely related to the national strategy for sustainable development which has four objectives:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection and enhancement of the environment;
- Prudent use of natural resources; and
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

Policy Context

The national context is set out in Planning Policy Statements (the replacement to Planning Policy Guidance Notes), Circulars and other advice from Government. Whilst some of those national policies require local interpretation, a great number do not.

The regional context is set out in the Regional Planning Guidance for East Anglia (RPG6), which was approved in November 2000. It aims to focus a higher proportion of Cambridgeshire's growth into the Cambridge Sub-Region and proposes a sequential approach to the planning of development, with much of the development concentrated into and on the edge of Cambridge (subject to a review of the Cambridge Green Belt), including development in South Cambridgeshire, and into a new town beyond the outer boundary of the Green Belt.

RPG6 informs the strategy in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003. This will be the last of its kind and will be superseded by a new Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England. Whilst under the terms of the new plan making system the LDF must be in general conformity with RPG6, in the circumstances of the Cambridge Area it is also appropriate and consistent for the LDF to meet the policy requirements of the Structure Plan, as there is currently no evidence that the draft RSS is proposing divergent emerging policies on the development strategy for the sub-region relative to those set out in the current RPG and the 2003 Structure Plan. The housing requirement set out in the Structure Plan is detailed in the Core Strategy DPD.

The East of England Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) will replace the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan when it is published in its final form by the Secretary of State. A number of Structure Plan policies will be 'saved', and remain valid until at least 28th September 2007, under the transitional provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Core Strategy Policy Approach

The LDF will enable the step change in growth required in the Regional Spatial Strategy and Structure Plan, particularly in the rate of housing development. South Cambridgeshire will be experiencing an almost 40% increase in housing development between 1999 and 2016. In the past, much of the housing development in the Cambridge area has been directed to the villages and towns beyond the city. Whilst there has been employment growth elsewhere, Cambridge has remained the dominant centre of employment. As demand has outstripped the supply of housing close to Cambridge, people have located further from Cambridge increasing commuter flows through the district. Most of the new development in the district (on sites not yet committed) will take place on the edge of Cambridge and in a new town.

Vision & Objectives

The vision and objectives set out the aspirations to achieve quality, sustainable development with vibrant, healthy and balanced communities within the district to satisfy the development needs whilst preserving and enhancing its rich built and natural heritage and distinctive character.

Green Belt

The Cambridge Green Belt serves a number of purposes derived from national guidance in PPG2 and the Cambridgeshire Structure Plan 2003; notably it keeps land open and free from development, preserves the character and setting of the historic city as a compact centre, prevents urban sprawl and coalescence. As such it encourages the reuse of land within the city and villages, minimising the use of greenfield land and restricts development on the edge of the built-up area away from services and facilities often located at their historic heart. It also provides opportunities for good access to open countryside for recreational purposes.

Housing provision

In accordance with the development strategy in the RSS and Structure Plan, as the most sustainable urban centre in the Cambridge Sub-Region, development is focused within Cambridge and in urban extensions to the city. High density, high quality, sustainable development will provide the opportunity for people to live closer to their place of employment and access services and facilities, reducing travel distances and maximising opportunities to provide quality infrastructure to facilitate movement by non-car modes.

The proposed location for the new town of Northstowe maximises opportunities for travel by a range of modes, situated on the proposed Cambridgeshire Guided Busway, and close enough to Cambridge to facilitate cycling. The town will be developed as an exemplar in sustainability, as a compact centre, with a full range of facilities and services to meet local needs, whilst maximising opportunities for

movement within and to the town by non-car modes. Development will be of the highest quality, incorporating renewable energy and water saving features.

Villages have been categorised according to their relative sustainability into Rural Centres, Minor Rural Centres, Group Villages and Infill Villages. The level of windfall development permitted within the defined built-up areas of villages reflects their position within the hierarchy.

In accordance with the sequential strategy, the only housing allocations in the rural area are in Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres, which fulfil an important local function as service centres to their rural hinterland, reducing the need to travel further into Cambridge or the outlying market towns. These allocations have been tested through Local Plan 2004 in the context of sustainability criteria in PPG3. Other allocations in less sustainable villages have not been carried forward.

Reuse of previously developed land

Whilst the target for the reuse of previously developed land in South Cambridgeshire is lower than the national average, it reflects the nature of the district and the level of growth that must be accommodated. Nevertheless, the development strategy focuses development on the reuse of previously developed land within and on the edge of Cambridge, such as Cambridge Airport to the east and the former Monsanto site to the south. The proposed location for the new town of Northstowe will also maximise opportunities for the reuse the old Oakington Airfield. In the wider rural area development is permitted within the defined built-up areas of villages, facilitating the reuse of previously developed land with development of a scale reflecting the relative sustainability of the village.

Employment

A balance has to be struck to ensure that sufficient employment land is available to meet local needs, but also ensuring new employment growth does not undermine the qualities that attract firms in the first place. As such, there is a selective management approach in the area close to Cambridge that discriminates in favour of uses that have an essential need for a Cambridge location. This will continue to support the high technology research and development sectors of the economy that have made the Cambridge area such a success.

Additional employment provision will be incorporated within the strategic locations of Northstowe and on the edges of Cambridge to help provide balanced communities where people can live and work in the same location, thus reducing the need to travel. The level of employment development will be scaled so that the level of housing development can help address the balance between homes and jobs. Existing business parks and small-scale employment in villages provide important local employment for the rural community, which help with balanced communities and reduce the need to travel, particularly by private car.

Retail

A retail hierarchy is established to ensure a suitable scale of retail provision is made in locations according to their relative sustainability and function. Cambridge will remain the sub-regional centre and therefore the focus of shopping development. However, an appropriate level of new retail provision will be incorporated in the strategic development locations to help create balanced communities and reduce the need to travel to meet day-to-day needs.

Rural Centres fulfil an important local function as local centres to a rural hinterland, facilitating access to local services and facilities without the need to travel further into Cambridge or the outlying market towns. Similarly Minor Rural Centres, but to a slightly lesser extent, have facilities and services to fulfil a similar role for a smaller catchment area. Group and sometimes Infill Villages serve even smaller catchments for localised shopping needs.

Monitoring

The Core Strategy also includes a series of indicators that will be monitored through the LDF Annual Monitoring Report. The impact of the plan can therefore be monitored, and a review triggered if conditions require it.

2. How the Sustainability Appraisal had been taken into account

The Sustainability Appraisal has contributed to plan development by providing an independent assessment of the sustainability of the Council's proposed options and policies as they were developed. It demonstrates that sustainability considerations have been incorporated into the development of the DPD from an early stage, and provides a formal statement and audit trail of the assessment.

The Sustainability Report is a key output of the plan preparation process. It reflected and supported the draft plan on which formal public consultation and participation was carried out. The report was prepared in support of the Core Strategy DPD, Development Control Policies DPD, and Site Specific Policies DPD in combination. Appraisals of the Northstowe, Cambridge East, and Southern Fringe Area Action Plans were submitted in parallel, which had the advantage of providing even a greater level of detailed analysis of the impact of major proposals in the Core Strategy DPD.

The process began with preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. This formed a useful part of the evidence base for the early stages of plan preparation. It provided information on other relevant plans and strategies, from European to local level, and analysed which objectives and requirements were relevant to the preparation of the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework.

The information gathered was used to create a set of sustainability objectives, which could be used to test emerging options and policies. A consistency matrix was used to test any tensions between these objectives. A set of indicators was also created, to provide evidence on the current state of the environment, as well as social and economic factors. These indicators were tested against other geographical areas to provide a comparison. This helped to identify priorities for South Cambridgeshire and any existing problems. It also highlighted policy issues that should be explored.

The key sustainability issues identified in the Scoping Report influenced the development of plan policies and objectives. Section 6.2, and Appendix 5, of the Final Sustainability Report specifically analyses the impact of policies on these wider sustainability issues. The objectives of the draft plan were tested against the sustainability objectives, through the Initial Sustainability Report. This provided information to the Council and representors on the compatibility between plan objectives and sustainability objectives.

The significant effects of the options, and subsequent policies, were analysed against the sustainability objectives, which provided information on their economic, social and environmental impact. Analysis included the scale and nature of the impact, cumulative, secondary and synergistic impacts. Both detailed testing matrices, and written summaries were included in the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report. This provided useful information to both representors and the Inspectors on the impacts of the policies of the plan.

The analysis of the impacts of the plan proposals also indicated opportunities to improve the sustainability of the plan, and indicate mitigation measures. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant effects on the environment, as well as social and economic objectives, are summarised in Appendix 6 of the Final Sustainability Report. A number of changes were made to plan options, and subsequently plan policies, as a result of the analysis in both the initial and the draft final, and the Final Sustainability Appraisal Reports.

3. How consultation taken into account (draft plan and the Environmental Report)

In this statement the Council is required to detail how opinions expressed in response to consultation have been taken into account.

Key Environmental Bodies

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires that authorities referred to in Article 6(3) shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the Environmental Report. In England, the key bodies are the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England (formerly English Nature and the Countryside Agency).

Consultation on a draft of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report with these key bodies was carried out in June 2004. The consultation enabled these bodies to comment on the appropriateness of the objectives, indicators, baseline assessment and issues/problems. A report on the outcome of these consultations is included in Appendix 7 of the Scoping Report. The consultation resulted in a number of changes to the Scoping Report, including changes to the sustainability objectives and questions, new issues for the area being identified, new plans and strategies being analysed in the report, and revised and new monitoring indicators.

Public Participation

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying Environmental Report before the adoption of the plan or programme or its submission to the legislative procedure. The Council undertook a programme of public participation on the plan and its Sustainability Appraisal prior to submission to the Secretary of State. Full details can be found in the 'Statement of Statutory Bodies Consultation and Pre-Submission Public Participation (REGULATION 28 STATEMENT)', available to view on the Council's website.

Consultation under Regulation 25

Statutory Bodies Consultation

The Council carried out an initial consultation with statutory bodies on all the matters which would be covered by the DPDs, as required under the new system of plan making, to ensure that it was aware, at an early stage of any programmes and plans that would affect the LDF. This took place under the “jumping the gun” regulations, in the lead up to the new system of plan making which did not come into force until September 2004. The consultation took the form of a letter highlighting general issues relating to the proposed Development Plan Documents, and seeking comments on issues that should be considered. The responses received were taken into account in preparing the Preferred Options Reports. A summary of the main issues raised and how the issues were addressed can be found in Appendix 1.

Preferred Options

Public consultation at this stage provided the public the opportunity to participate on options, before the decision was made on the preferred approach.

Initial Sustainability Appraisal Reports were included as annexes to the Preferred Options Reports. Whilst no representations were received specifically on the initial appraisal of the Core Strategy DPD, a total of 624 representations were submitted to the Core Strategy DPD. 230 additional representations were received on the Rural Centres Preferred Options Report. A summary of the main issues raised and how the issues were addressed can be found in Appendix 1.

A consultation draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was also included in the public participation at the Preferred Options stage of the LDF preparation. This also included consultation with a wide range of statutory bodies. The Preferred Options Reports were published in October 2004 and were subject to a six-week long public participation period. During this period, over 6,000 representations were received, 30 of which specifically related to the Scoping Report. A report on the outcome of the public participation is included in Appendix 8 of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The consultation resulted in a number of changes to the scoping report, including changes to the sustainability objectives and questions, new issues for the area being identified, new plans and strategies being analysed in the report, and revised and new monitoring indicators.

Consultation under Regulation 26

The Pre-Submission Public Participation DPDs, together with the draft Final Sustainability Reports allowed the public to consider the Council's reasons for selecting their preferred options in the context of a compliant environmental report and to seek to persuade the Council to opt for another, different approach. A single set of proposals, in the form of the pre-submission DPDs, allowed consideration of a holistic view in the draft final Sustainability Report and for the assessment of cumulative and synergistic effects. It included an outline of the process of selecting and rejecting options.

Appraisals of the Core Strategy DPD, Development Control Policies DPD, and Site Specific Policies DPD were bound together in one document. 20 representations were received in relation to the appraisal. A further 483 representations specifically related to the Core Strategy DPD. A summary of the main issues raised and how the issues were addressed can be found in Appendix 1.

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was also subject to further public participation at the Pre-Submission Public Participation stage. 11 representations specifically related to the scoping report. A schedule of responses is included in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2006. The majority of representations related to health issues. Changes were made prior to publication of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, alongside the Final Sustainability Appraisal. They include additional details from additional plans and strategies relating to health issues.

Submission

On submission of the DPD, accompanied by the Final Sustainability Report, a further 469 representations were received, which were considered by independent Inspectors through the Examination process.

4. Reasons for choosing the document as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (12) (2) requires environmental reports to examine reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.

This statement is required to set out the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with.

PPS12 makes clear that full regard should be had to the chain of conformity to avoid duplication of assessment. RPG6 and the Cambridgeshire Structure Plan provide a very clear strategy and sequence for development, and the Structure Plan is very specific in identifying the locations for strategic growth. This limited the number of available reasonable alternatives, as non-conformity with the clearly established strategy in a recently adopted higher order plan would make an alternative unreasonable. The Structure Plan was subject to Sustainability Appraisal, and the plan preparation process involved assessment of a large number of potential alternative sites.

The appraisal of alternatives is documented in the Final Sustainability Report. Appendix 2 of the report details the options selection process, and sets out why certain options were not considered reasonable. The preferred options reports included a number of options, each of which were appraised through the initial appraisal reports, to assist decision making of both the Council, and to inform representors. This process is also captured in Chapter 5 of the Final Sustainability Report. Sustainability Appraisal involves testing each reasonable plan option against the SA Framework to determine their performance in sustainability terms. The process is fully documented, including the reasons for eliminating options.

5. Monitoring

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires authorities to set out the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

Details of the monitoring measures envisaged are summarised in Appendix 4 of the Final Sustainability Report.

The indicators created in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, will continue to be monitored annually. They have been utilised as 'significant effect indicators', to be collated in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report. This report includes an analysis of the implications of the results, and should a need arise a review of LDF documents could be triggered by this information.

The South Cambridgeshire Annual Monitoring Report is available to view on the Council's website.

Appendix 1: Extract From 'Statement of Statutory Bodies Consultation and Pre-Submission Public Participation (REGULATION 28 STATEMENT)'

7. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Statutory Bodies Consultation on Draft South Cambridgeshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

- Consultation with statutory bodies took place in June 2004
- Key agencies that have environmental, social or economic responsibilities (the Environment Agency, English Nature, English Heritage, and the Countryside Agency).
- All four bodies responded.
- A schedule of responses is included in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2006, and is available to view on the District Council's website (www.scambs.gov.uk).
- Summary of main issues raised: The consultation enabled these bodies to comment on the appropriateness of the objectives, indicators, baseline assessment and issues/problems. Additional Sustainability Objectives, decision making criteria, and monitoring indicators suggested. A number of local sustainability issues raised, including historic environments, water and drainage, and biodiversity.
- How were issues addressed: Changes were made prior to publication of the Consultation Draft Scoping Report. They include additional Sustainability Objectives, decision making criteria, and monitoring indicators.

Consultation Draft South Cambridgeshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

- Public consultation took place during a 6 week period from Friday 1 October 2004 to 12 noon on Friday 12 November 2004 (alongside Preferred Options Reports)
- 30 representations specifically related to the scoping report.
- A schedule of responses is included in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2006, and is available to view on the District Council's website (www.scambs.gov.uk).
- Summary of main issues raised: A wide variety of issues were raised, ranging from transport, landscape, to health.
- How were issues addressed: Changes were made prior to publication of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, alongside the Final Draft Sustainability Appraisal. They include additional Sustainability Objectives, decision making criteria, and monitoring indicators.

South Cambridgeshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

As part of the Draft Final Sustainability Reports for the six Development Plan Documents, the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was subject to further public participation at the Pre-Submission Public Participation stage.

- Consultation took place in a 6 week period from Friday 17 June 2005 to 12 noon on Friday 29 July 2005.
- 11 representations specifically related to the scoping report.
- A schedule of responses is included in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2006, and is available to view on the District Council's website (www.scambs.gov.uk).
- Summary of main issues raised: The majority of representations related to health issues.
- How were issues addressed: Changes were made prior to publication of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, alongside the Final Draft Sustainability Appraisal. They include additional details from additional plans and strategies relating to health issues.

8. Initial Sustainability Reports

The Initial Sustainability Appraisal Reports were included as annexes to the Preferred Options Reports. Each option was subject to testing against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives created through the Scoping Report. The Initial Appraisal reports provided a summary of results, and provided valuable supporting information when considering options. Detailed background tables supporting the appraisal of each option are available to view on the District Council's website (www.scambs.gov.uk).

Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (including Site Specific Policies)

- 1 representation specifically related to the Initial Appraisal.
- A schedule of responses is available to view on the District Council's website (www.scambs.gov.uk).
- Summary of main issues raised: Issue raised on access to Papworth Hospital.
- How were issues addressed: No change required.

Rural Centres

No representations specifically related to the Initial Appraisal.

9. Draft Final Sustainability Reports

The Draft Final Sustainability Reports meet the requirements for sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment.

They were published for public participation alongside the Pre-Submission Public Participation Draft Development Plan Documents.

1. Core Strategy DPD, 2. Development Control Policies DPD, and 3. Site Specific Policies DPD

Appraisals of the Core Strategy DPD, Development Control Policies DPD, and Site Specific Policies DPD were bound together in one document.

- 20 representations were received.
- A schedule of responses is available to view on the District Council's website (www.scambs.gov.uk).
- Summary of main issues raised: Whilst there was one support, some representations criticised the complexity of the process, and some representations queried the outcome of individual policy appraisals. Some representations on the failure to appraise alternative options to a number of policies.
- How were issues addressed: Issues raised were considered when appraising policy changes. Sustainability appraisals are only required to assess reasonable alternatives. It is considered that additional options raised in these particular representations did not require appraisal at this stage in the plan making process.

1. Core Strategy Development Plan Document

1.A Statutory Bodies Consultation

- A total of 281 representations specifically related to the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies. 46 were also received relating to Rural Centres.
- A schedule of responses is available to view on the District Council's website (www.scambs.gov.uk).

Summary of main issues raised:

- A variety of transport problems were identified, and specific improvements were requested.
- There was considerable support for the provision of affordable housing.
- Comments highlighted the importance of phasing to ensure infrastructure is in place, and monitoring.
- Comments highlighted the importance of providing sufficient jobs, and supporting the Cambridgeshire economy.
- Specific concerns were raised related to the selection of villages as Rural Centres.
- There were calls for plans to respect green belt boundaries.
- There was support for increased participation of plan development, but some criticism over timescales.
- Calls to protect village character.

- Support for requirements to increase energy efficiency of development.
- Comments emphasised the importance of protecting the natural environment.
- Comments raised the need for some specific village facilities, including an additional graveyard at Gamlingay.

How were issues addressed:

- Issues raised were considered when the Preferred Options Reports were drafted.

1.B Preferred Options Report

At this stage options relating to the Core Strategy DPD, Development Control Policies DPD, and Site Specific Policies DPD were bound together in one document - the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Preferred Options Report. A Rural Centres Preferred Options Report was also published, to address the selection process and development of rural centres policies.

- A total of 624 representations specifically related to the Core Strategy. 230 additional representations were received on the Rural Centres Preferred Options Report.
- A schedule of representations, officers responses and recommended changes to plan is available to view on the District Council's website together with the minutes of the meeting recording the Council's decisions (www.scambs.gov.uk).

Summary of main issues raised:

- Strategic Vision was generally supported, recognising that RPG6 and the Structure Plan set the level of growth and are quite locationally specific. However, a number of representations felt that no real options had been presented. Concerns were expressed about the strict interpretation of limiting development in rural areas and called for a more flexible approach.
- Whilst there was support for the approach to Strategy Objectives, again concerns were raised about the inflexibility of the rural settlement strategy which could frustrate bringing forward brownfield sites in villages. Other representations argued for further allocations to be made in villages.
- On village frameworks, the majority of representations sought a change to the established village framework.
- CS4, RC1 and RC2 set out the approach to be taken for Rural Centres. Representations were raised regarding the criteria set out in Structure Plan being applied too rigidly, too much weight being given to the size of convenience foodstore, failure to give sufficient consideration to the role Rural Centres should play in serving a local hinterland, and failure to take into account the geographical spread of Rural Centres through the District. A number of representations argued Fulbourn did not meet the requirements of a Rural Centre.

- The implications for Cambourne and review of the original outline planning permission and Masterplan/Design Guide were the subject of many representations. On the one hand, local residents opposed to any development beyond the original 3,000 dwellings with a 10% reserve, while the developers argued for more development on the basis that this would secure a more sustainable level of facilities.
- There was a mixed response on Group villages. Generally local residents and Parish Councils welcomed the approach but developers and land interests objected that it was too restrictive and that there was a need in some cases for greenfield allocations. A number of representations suggested there should be a category between Group Villages and Rural Centres and suggest villages for inclusion.
- There was a mix of support and objection to the preferred approach to Infill Only Villages. Some representations argued that the defining criteria of a primary school should be treated in a more flexible way to allow greater development including greenfield allocations in small villages where the population level is static or declining.

How were issues addressed:

In the majority of cases the preferred approaches were developed into policies in the Pre-Submission Public Participation Draft DPD. Some specific changes to the approach for the Pre-Submission Draft DPD were as follows:

- Amendments to the Strategic Vision to emphasise the importance of providing affordable housing, and addressing the homes jobs balance in the Cambridge Sub-Region. Also refer to recycling previously developed land, and enhancing the environment.
- Changes to Strategic Objectives to take account of climate change, the need to sustain the high technology research and development industry, and to recognise that the requirement to improve biodiversity needs to be appropriate to the development.
- Introduce new classification of 'Minor Rural Centres' a category between Group Villages and Rural Centres, to acknowledge the role that a number of villages in the district have in serving a local hinterland, where the village comes close to meeting the Structure Plan criteria.
- Fulbourn designated as a Minor Rural Centre, Bar Hill designated as a Rural Centre.

1.C Pre-Submission Public Participation Draft

At this stage the Core Strategy DPD, Development Control Policies DPD, and Site Specific Policies DPD were bound together in one document - the Core Strategy, Development Control Policies, Site Specific Policies Pre-Submission Public Participation Draft.

- A total of 483 representations specifically related to the Core Strategy (An additional 19 related to the Introduction).

- A schedule of representations, officers responses and recommended changes to plan is available to view on the District Council's website together with the minutes of the meeting recording the Council's decisions (www.scambs.gov.uk).

Summary of main issues raised:

- A number of representations were received in support of the strategic vision, others emphasise the importance of providing affordable housing, and providing for additional growth.
- Significant support for the Strategic Objectives, but calls for amendments to a number of objectives, including in relating to creating sustainable developments, utilising previously developed land, and protecting the landscape.
- Concerns raised about delivery of housing to meet Structure Plan and RSS targets, and targets relating to the use of previously developed land. A number of additional or alternative development locations were proposed, particularly in village locations.
- There were calls for additional information on phasing and delivery.
- Representations sought further detail to be added with regard to North West Cambridge.
- A variety of representations suggested reclassification of a number of villages within the rural settlement hierarchy. Additional villages should be classified as Rural Centres. A number of representations stated Bar Hill should not be designated as a Rural Centre.

How were issues addressed:

A number of changes were made for the Submission DPD, some of the more significant changes include:

- Amendments to the strategic vision and objectives relating to affordable housing and sustainability issues.
- The housing land supply information was updated to reflect the period up to the end of March 2005 and continued to demonstrate that the Council could meet its housing guidelines for the different stages in the sequence, i.e. in and on the edge of Cambridge, a new town at Northstowe, in rural areas.
- Included an additional policy relating to North West Cambridge in the Site Specific Policies DPD.
- Bar Hill re-categorised as a Minor Rural Centre from a Rural Centre.
- New chapter included on delivery, which sets out the mechanisms for implementing the DPD and includes a housing trajectory, a requirement of the new plan making system which forecasts delivery of housing on an annual basis in order to demonstrate how the policies of the DPDs will be implemented. There are many outside factors that will influence rates of building and the chapter highlights these.
- New chapter included on monitoring, which highlights the importance of the plan, monitor and manage approach and sets out the indicators that will be used to monitor delivery of development.