

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England)  
Regulations 2004 Regulation 28: Pre-Submission Consultation  
Statement**

**November 2005**





## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

### **The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 Regulation 28: Pre-Submission Consultation Statement**

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#### **Pre-Submission Consultation under Regulation 25**

Prior to the preparation of the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) views were sought with regard to:

- Explaining the nature and purpose of the SCI;
- Who should be consulted;
- Who wished to be consulted;
- How should the District Council engage with the Community; and
- When should this engagement take place.

This consultation involved:

- Production of a leaflet entitled *A New Development Plan for North West Leicestershire*.
- This leaflet included a section *Engaging with the Community* which explained the role of the SCI and asked the key questions in relation to that document. It also provided details of how the SCI would be taken forward.
- This leaflet was forwarded to stakeholders identified on the Council's database.
- Press notices were placed in the Leicester Mercury and the Derby Evening Telegraph – the main newspapers circulating within and around the District.
- Details of the consultation were placed on the Council's website.
- Formal and informal presentations and discussions took place at various established forums, such as Ashby Wolds Forum, Local Authority National Forest Advisory Group and County-wide Developers Forum, and other opportunities.

The District Council received 42 written replies in response to this consultation (see Appendix A).

#### **Pre-Submission Public Participation under Regulation 26**

Public participation took place on the basis of the Draft SCI. The main consultation took place over a 6 weeks period between 6<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005. This involved:

- Making the draft SCI available for inspection at the Council Offices, Coalville and the libraries in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Castle Donington, Coalville, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham,
- Placing the draft SCI and proposal matters on the Council website, with a statement explaining where and when copies of these documents were available for inspection.
- Forwarding copies of the documents to stakeholders identified on the Council's database, including all statutory consultees.
- Placing notices by local advertisement in the Leicester Mercury and the Derby Evening Telegraph. A copy of the notice is provided at Appendix B.
- Producing and circulating a press release publicising the draft SCI.

A copy of the District Council's stakeholder database is provided at Appendix C.

## **Consideration of Responses to Pre Submission Consultation and Participation**

A report on responses to the consultation on the draft SCI was prepared and taken to the District Council's Executive Board on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005. The recommendations of this report were agreed and were subsequently confirmed by Council at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

This report (which is attached as Appendix D) constitutes a statement setting out:

- The number of representations made;
- A summary of the main issues raised in those representations; and
- How those main issues have been addressed in the submitted SCI.

## APPENDIX A

No.	Name of Respondent	Acting for	Summary of response to initial consultation
1	Central Networks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did not think the role of Central Networks was to influence development through plan preparation.</li> </ul>
2	Peacock and Smith	Wm Morrison Supermarkets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like notification of further consultations on any proposed Development Plan Documents which come forward during the Local Development Framework preparation programme.</li> <li>Particularly interested in any Area Action Plans which may be prepared for Coalville Town Centre.</li> </ul>
3	National Farmers Union		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like to be consulted on policies which support farm/rural diversification.</li> <li>Emphasised the need of the Council not to over rely on internet/email as many people do not have access to the internet.</li> </ul>
4	Transport 2000 (Leicestershire Branch)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasised the need for the Council not to over rely on internet/email as many people do not have access to the internet.</li> </ul>
5	Isley Walton-cum-Langley Parish Meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Futile going after 'hard to reach groups' – if groups are not proactive enough to involve themselves in the process, they are unlikely to be proactive enough to respond.</li> <li>Council should engage as they have in the past through direct mail and newspaper adverts.</li> <li>Parish Councils should be involved in area specific proposals as soon as suggestions of proposals are – before firm proposals are before the Council.</li> </ul>
6	The Church of England Church Commissioners		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No views to express at this stage.</li> <li>Wished to be involved as documents emerge.</li> </ul>
7	The Gypsy Council		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unable to comment on policy/plan at this stage of the preparation</li> </ul>
8	National Playing Fields Association		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set out nationally based guidance on how it should be consulted, when and on what parts of the LDF (Core Strategy/Development Control Policies).</li> </ul>
9	Ashby-de-la-Zouch Town Council		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted the new plan-making arrangements and wished to be designated as a consultee under the new arrangements.</li> </ul>
10	City of Nottingham		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments at this stage.</li> <li>Wished to be involved as documents emerge.</li> </ul>
11	Housing Corporation (East Midlands Region)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would welcome input into development of affordable housing policies and Local Development Documents, considering land allocations and Area Action Plans.</li> <li>Would welcome consultation of Supplementary Planning Documents.</li> <li>Would expect there to be a document concerned with the provision of affordable housing.</li> <li>Would seek to contribute to the Evidence Base that informs the vision and content of Local Development Documents.</li> <li>Assist in identifying the issues and options to be addressed through the LDF.</li> <li>Would wish to evaluate whether Local Development Documents support the delivery of high quality affordable housing.</li> </ul>
12	Sigma		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wished to be consulted at later stages by direct mail.</li> </ul>

	Planning Services		
13	Derby County Council		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Comments at this stage – wished to be consulted at later stages.</li> </ul>
14	House Builders Federation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set out a need for a high level of developer involvement including the release of information relating to the Council's recently undertaken Urban Capacity Study.</li> <li>Also set out preference to be consulted using paper based methods or email with regard to the production of either draft or adopted Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.</li> <li>Also requested that the HBF be included on the Districts Council's database of interested parties.</li> <li>Requested that HBF be involved during all stages of plan production</li> </ul>
15	Malcolm Judd & Partners	National Grid Transco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wished to be consulted during the later stages of the LDF preparation programme.</li> <li>In the interim would be willing to help draw up policies relating to electricity infrastructure and provide examples of policies used elsewhere.</li> </ul>
16	Nottingham East Midlands Airport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East Midlands Airport fully supports the preparation of the LDF and SCI for the district.</li> <li>Requested that East Midlands Airport is involved in all stages of the LDF process but specifically the core strategy employment land strategy and any future Airport Area Action Plan.</li> </ul>
17	National Forest Company		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Forest Company is keen to work with the District Council through out the LDF programme.</li> <li>NFC is keen to ensure that new Development Plan Documents reflect policies set out in the National Forest Strategy 2004-2014.</li> </ul>
18	Mrs Ruth Cox	Mrs I M Kosowicz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wished to suggest the inclusion of the field to the rear of 'Rose Bungalow' ldstock for allocation within the Development Plan and be consulted thereon.</li> </ul>
19	GVA Grimley	Jelsons Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The spatial housing policies of the core strategy should reflect the advice contained in PPG3, RSS8 and the Adopted Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan.</li> <li>The strategy should prioritise the use of previously developed land, but be flexible enough to allow sustainable greenfield development in appropriate circumstances.</li> </ul>
20	CgMs	Royal Bank of Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressed an interest in being consulted further on all emerging LDF Documents including the SCI, land allocations and Area Action Plans</li> </ul>
21	Arlington Securities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arlington is keen to be involved in the preparation of the LDF for North West Leicestershire and would welcome the opportunity to be involved at all stages of its preparation.</li> <li>Suggested the need to consult widely with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local and national developers;</li> <li>The owners of Nottingham East Midlands Airport;</li> <li>The local resident and business community</li> </ul> </li> <li>Recommended a wide and early consultation phase in advance of any draft documentation being released for consultation</li> </ul>
22	English Heritage		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set out that whilst English Heritage is not a statutory Consultee regarding the Statement of Community Involvement it has set out some general principles which they would like to see reflected within the SCI. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The importance of contacting consultation bodies early in the plan making process</li> <li>The importance of contacting wider stakeholder bodies during</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			LDF and Sustainability Appraisal preparation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out a preference for paper based consultation.</li> </ul>
23	South West Industrial Properties		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDF should reflect the policy requirements and targets embodied within RSS8, not the recently adopted Structure plan as this is the overriding policy document.</li> <li>• Would like to see assessment of scale and location of new development in the district to incorporate sequential test to ensure previously developed land is developed first.</li> <li>• Would like to see the council commission and make available housing needs assessment and employment land review before finalising core strategy/allocations.</li> </ul>
24	Sport England (East Midlands)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to see the Core Strategy have a suite of policies and proposals relating to sport and active recreation and be consulted thereon.</li> </ul>
25	DPDS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDS indicates that the preferred options consultation on housing and employment allocations will be in Jun/Jul 2007 with omission site consultation in Apr/may 2008. At this point the Adopted Structure Plan period will have ended hence there is little point undertaking work based on this. The Housing and Employment figures based on RSS figures will be more up to date/accurate and robust.</li> </ul>
26	William Davis		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested that developers and landowners should be mentioned explicitly as group to be consulted.</li> <li>• Also requests a flexible approach that encourages limited consultation on some schemes and more significant engagement on others depending on the nature of the development and its context.</li> </ul>
27	British Waterways (Helen Edwards)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In respect of Core Strategy the Council should be considering the inclusion of policies that support the use of and development of the inland waterways.</li> </ul>
28	The Loughborough Gospel Hall Trust		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some faith groups may be hard to reach but nonetheless should be included as consultees in the SCI.</li> <li>• Would require information on hard copy format as belief restrict the from internet usage.</li> </ul>
29	Gwenyth Tseng		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to cast public consultation as wide as possible. Further it should be open to both group and individuals. Hence there is a need to put consultation responses in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local newspapers;</li> <li>- Community Centres;</li> <li>- Parish Council Notice Boards/offices;</li> <li>- Website.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Neighbour notifications and newspaper announcements should continue for DC applications.</li> <li>• Also well publicised public meetings should be held.</li> </ul>
30	Bellway Homes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered there interest in being consulted throughout the LDF preparation process by paper/email.</li> <li>• Also forward possible sites at Station Road and Ashby Road, Ibstock for residential development.</li> </ul>
31	Heart of the National Forest Foundation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out a range of policies that it would like to see included within the core strategy to support the development of the National Forest Park and wished to be consulted thereon.</li> </ul>
32	Ashby-de-la-Zouch Endowed Schools Foundation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered interest in being consulted throughout the LDF preparation process by paper/email.</li> <li>• Also put forward possible sites at Ashby-de-la-Zouch.</li> </ul>
33	Pegasus Planning Group	David Wilson Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wished to be consulted during LDF preparation.</li> <li>• There will be a need to have regard to RSS8 (in particular Appendix 4) that projects a higher level of household growth in Leicester than any</li> </ul>

			<p>4) that projects a higher level of household growth in Leicester than any other part of the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also set out the need to allow for sustainable development with Coalville being the priority settlement for new growth and Ashby and Castle Donington also being significant.</li> </ul>
34	Countrywide Homes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement of receipt of Consultation Document.</li> </ul>
35	Miller Homes Limited	Clowes Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerned that new allocations will be adopted until 2009 and hence a short fall in housing supply will result in the policy vacuum between now and then.</li> <li>• States need for further development at Castle Donington.</li> <li>• Also highlights the Ivanhoe Equestrian Centre (Ashby) as a sustainable development location.</li> <li>• Wished to be consulted on these and other issues.</li> </ul>
36	Ravenstone Parish Council		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation should include major Landowners and Charities and other bodies providing services at the Grass Roots level.</li> <li>• Consultation should take place on all level of issues. An easy to read section should be included for mass consultation which avoids the use of acronyms.</li> <li>• Paper consultation should continue until all relevant information and all sections of the community are able to access the internet.</li> <li>• Engagement should take place at the earliest opportunity.</li> </ul>
37	Leicestershire City Council		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Comment.</li> </ul>
38	English Nature		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out the requirement to undertake SEA/SA of all Development Plan Documents in the Local Development Framework and consult on this process.</li> </ul>
39	Network Gold		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out a desire to be involved in a wider consultative process especially issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The loss of employment land within the district</li> <li>- Prominence of distribution sites and their impact on available commercial/industrial sites.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
40	The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out a number of policies which the Showmen's Guild would like to be consulted on.</li> </ul>
41	Ashby-de-la-Zouch Civic Society		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would welcome the opportunity to add comments later in the year.</li> </ul>
42	Castle Donington Parish Council		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village appraisal Group should be included within consultation.</li> <li>• Requested to be informed about all decision relating to Planning Policy.</li> <li>• Requested attendance of officer from NWLDC to advise the parish council about how they can have their say.</li> <li>• Discussion with the parish council should be at an early stage.</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX B

The Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004  
Regulation 26: Notice of Pre-submission Participation

Proposals Matters: Statement of Community Involvement

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### **DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

As part of the development plan system in England, the District Council is required to prepare a Local Development Framework. This will comprise a number of documents, including a Statement of Community Involvement. The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the standards to be achieved by the Council in the preparation, alteration and review of the Local Development Framework and planning applications.

#### **This Consultation**

Announces the publication of the draft Statement of Community Involvement and Invites submissions and comments on the content of the draft Statement of Community Involvement.

The draft Statement of Community Involvement can be viewed at the following from Monday 6 June 2005:

Our website [www.nwleics.gov.uk/development\\_planning](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/development_planning)

The Council Offices, Whitwick Road, Coalville (8.45am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday);

At the following Public Libraries (during normal opening hours):

North Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch;

Delven Lane, Castle Donington;

Community College, Central Road, Ibstock;

High Street, Kegworth and

Thorpe Road, Measham

Please send your comments in writing to:

**The Manager of Planning and Environment  
North West Leicestershire District Council  
Council Offices  
Whitwick Road  
Coalville  
LE67 3FJ**

All comments should be received no later than **Monday 18 July 2005**

## APPENDIX C

### List of Organisations on the District Council's Consultation Database

ORGANISATION
Advantage West Midlands
Age Concern
Ancient Monuments Society
Andrew and Ashwell
Andrew Granger and Co Ltd Chrted Survyrs
Antony Aspbury Associates Ltd
Appleby Magna Parish Council
Arlington Development Services, Arlington Securities Plc
Arriva Buses Midlands
Ashby Chamber of Trade and Industry
Ashby Coalition for Town Centre Enhancements
Ashby de la Zouch Civic Society
Ashby de la Zouch Endowed Schools Foundation
Ashby de la Zouch Partnership
Ashby de la Zouch Town Council
Ashby Woulds Town Council
Aston on Trent Parish Council
Atisreal
Austrey Parish Council
B C McDyer Town Planning Consultant
Bagworth and Thornton Parish Council
Bardon Parish Meeting
Barrett (East Midlands)
Bellway Homes
Belton Parish Council
Breaston Parish Council
Breedon on the Hill Parish Council
Brian Barber
British Energy Group Plc
British Waterways
Broxtowe Borough Council
Bryant Developments
Cadeby Homes Ltd
Calke Parish Meeting
Campaign for Real Ale Limited
Castle Donington and District Volunteer Bureau
Castle Donington Parish Council
Castle Gresley Parish Council
CBI
Central Networks (E-on)
CgMs Ltd
Charley Parish Council
Charnwood and North West Leicestershire Primary Care Trust
Charnwood Borough Council

Chilcote Parish Meeting
Church Commissioners for England
Civil Aviation Authority
Clarke Homes Limited
Clifton Campville with Thorpe Constaintine Parish Council
Coleorton Parish Council
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
Commission for Racial Equality
Council for British Archaeology
Country Land and Business Association
Countryside Agency
Countrywide Homes Ltd
CPRE (Derbyshire)
CPRE (Leicestershire)
Cresswell Coaches
Crest Homes Midlands Ltd
David Wilson Homes
Derby City Council
Derbyshire County Council
Development Land and Planning Consultants Ltd
Devplan Uk
Dialogue Communicating Planning
Diocesan Board of Finance
Disability Rights Commission
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee
Donington Park Leisure Ltd
DPDS
Drivers Jonas
DTZ Pida Consulting
E J Gray Associates
East Midlands Development Agency
East Midlands Housing Association
East Midlands Regional Assembly
East Midlands Tourist Board
East Staffordshire Borough Council
Elevate Planning Consultancy
Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council
English Heritage
English Nature (Eastern Area Team)
Environment Agency
Equal Opportunities Commission
Erewash Borough Council
EWS
Fairgrove Homes
FallowBond Limited
Fisher German
Forestry Commission
Freeth Cartwright LLP
Freight on Rail
Friends of the Earth

Government Office for the East Midlands, Planning and Transport Team
Government Office for the West Midlands
Greenpeace UK
Guide Association
GVA Grimley
Hallam Land Management
HANDSTAND
Harris Lamb Planning Consultants
Hartshorne Parish Council
Haslam Homes Ltd
Hathern Parish Council
Hayward Exclusive Homes Ltd
Health and Safety Executive
Health Forum
Heart of the National Forest Foundation
Heather Parish Council
Help the Aged
Henry Boot Developments Ltd
Hepher Dixon
Highways Agency
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
History and Natural Environment Team (LCC)
Housing Corporation
Howkins and Harrison
Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Forum
Ibstock Community Enterprises Ltd
Ibstock Parish Council
Isley cum Langley Parish Meeting
J and W Investment Ltd
James Bailey Planning
Jelson Ltd
Jones Day
JS Bloor Ltd (Measham)
JVH Town Planning Consultants Ltd
Kegworth Parish Council
Kinch Buses
King Edward VII Community College
Kingston on Soar Parish Council
Landmark Planning
Leicester City Council
Leicester Constabulary
Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Leicestershire County Council (Highways)
Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Services
Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council
Leicestershire Wildlife Trust
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic Health Authority
Lichfield District Council
Lichfield Planning
Linden Homes

Lockington and Hemington Parish Council
Long Whatton and Diseworth Parish Council
Macpherson Coaches
Malcolm Judd and Partners
Marron's Solicitors
Measham Community Office
Measham Parish Council
Melbourne Parish Council
Miller Homes Limited - East Midlands Region
Mobile Operators Association (MOA)
Moira Replan
Mr B Duncombe Clerk to Swannington Parish Council
Ms Cassie Holland
Ms Catherine Jamieson Clerk to Normanton le Heath Parish Meeting
Nailstone Parish Council
National Farmers Union (East Midlands Region)
National Grid
National Playing Fields Association
Netherseal Parish Council
Network Construction
Network Gold Forum
Network Rail
Newton Regis Parish Council
North Country Homes Group Limited
North Warwickshire Borough Council
North West Leicestershire Partnership in Safer Communities
Nottingham City Council
Nottingham East Midlands International Airport
Nottinghamshire County Council
Npower Centre
Oakthorpe Donisthorpe Acresford Parish Council
Orange Telecommunications
Osgathorpe Parish Council
Overseal Parish Council
Packington Parish Council
Paul James Coaches
Paul S Winson Coaches
Peacock and Smith
Pegasus Planning Group
Persimmon Homes (Midlands)
Peter Storey Planning Consultant
Peter Storrie Consultants
Peveril Homes
Planning and Urban Design
Radleigh Homes
Rae Watson
Ratcliffe on Soar Parish Council
Ravenstone with Snibston Parish Council
Redbank Manufacturing Company Ltd
Redrow Homes Midlands Ltd

Richard Raper Planning
Robert Turley Associates Limited
RPS - Planning Transport and Environment Ltd
Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland)
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Savills
Savills (L &P) Ltd
Sawley Parish Council
ScottishPower
Severn Trent Water Ltd
Shakerstone Parish Council
Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council
Shepshed Town Council
Shoosmiths Solicitors
Sigma Planning Services
Smisby Parish Council
Smith Stewart Reynolds
Smith Stuart Reynolds
Snarestone Parish Council
South Derbyshire District Council
South West Industrial Properties
Sport England (East Mids Region)
St David's Vicarage
Staffordshire County Council
Stansgate Planning Consultants
Stanton under Bardon Parish Council
Staunton Harold Parish Meeting
Stephen Kitchen and Co
Stephenson College
Stoneleigh Planning
Stretton en le Field Parish Meeting
SUSTRANS
Sutton Bonington Parish Council
Swepstone Parish Council
Swift Valley Partnership
T Mobile UK Limited
Tapton Estates
Taylor Woodrow
The Barton Willmore Planning Partnership - Midlands
The British Wind Energy Association
The Coal Authority
The Crown Estate Office
The Development Planning Partnership
The Garden History Society
The Georgian Group
The Gypsy Council
The House Builders Federation
The Loughborough Gospel Trust
The Marlene Reid Centre
The National Forest Company

The National Trust
The Planning Bureau Limited
The Rail Freight Group
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
The Scout Association
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
The Twentieth Century Society
The Victorian Society
The Youth Council
Threadneedle Investment Services Limited
Thringstone Community Centre
Thrumpton Parish Council
Ticknall Parish Council
TRANSCO
Trent Barton
Twycross Parish Council
UK Coal
UK Rainwater Harvesting Association
Vodafone Group PLC
Walton Homes Ltd
Webbir New Homes Ltd
Westbury Homes Nottingham Ltd
Weston on Trent Parish Council
William Davis Ltd
Williamson Design and Implementation Ltd
Wimpey Homes Midlands East
Woodhouse Parish Council
Woodville Parish Council
World Wide Fund for Nature
Worthington Parish Council

**NOTE:** 17 members of the public have asked to be included on the District' s Consultation database. These have been omitted from the list set out above. A complete list of all consultees is available from the Planning Policy and Regeneration Section, North West Leicestershire District Council.

## Appendix D

### NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE BOARD – 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER, 2005

Title of report	<b>DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATIONS</b>
Contacts	<b>Portfolio Holder – Councillor D Male</b> e-mail - <a href="mailto:dai.male@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">dai.male@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a> <b>Officer Contact – Colin Chapman, Head of Planning Policy &amp; Regeneration, Extn 676,</b> e-mail <a href="mailto:colin.chapman@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">colin.chapman@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>
Purpose of report	<b>To inform Members of the response to the consultation on the draft SCI and to seek approval for the submission of the revised version to the First Secretary of State.</b>
Strategic aims	<b><i>Attractive sustainable environment; Enough decent affordable homes; and Local prosperity and employment.</i></b>
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	<b>The SCI is consistent with the Council’s Local Development Scheme which assumes the continuation of the present level of resources.</b>
Health/Anti-Poverty	<b>An amendment to the draft SCI is proposed to identify ‘hard to reach’ groups and to indicate how such groups will be involved.</b>
Crime and Disorder	None
Risk Management	None
Human Rights	None
E-Government	<b>An amendment to the draft SCI is proposed to provide for submission of comments by e-mail.</b>
Comments of Monitoring Officer	<b>Report is satisfactory.</b>
Comments of Section 151 Officer	<b>Report is satisfactory.</b>
Comments of Head of Paid Service	<b>Report is satisfactory.</b>
Consultees	<b>The Draft SCI was circulated to all bodies on the Council’s Local</b>

	<b>Development Framework database.</b>
Background papers	<b>File of letters from parties in response to draft SCI consultation.</b>
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. THAT THE COMMENTS SET OUT IN APPENDIX 1 IN RESPECT OF RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT SCI BE ENDORSED.</b></li> <li><b>2. THAT THE SCI BE AMENDED AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX 2;</b></li> <li><b>3. THAT THE REVISED SCI BE APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE.</b></li> <li><b>4. THAT REPRESENTATIONS BE INVITED IN RESPECT OF THE DOCUMENT SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.</b></li> </ol>

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to prepare a "Statement of Community Involvement" (SCI) setting out the Council's proposals for involving the community in the preparation of the Local Development Framework (the successor to the Local Plan) and in relation to planning applications.
- 1.2 The draft SCI was agreed by this Board on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2005 and was the subject of a 6 weeks consultation exercise ending on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005.
- 1.3 This report summarises the response to this consultation and recommends amendments to the draft SCI.

## **2. RESPONSE**

- 2.1 A total of 42 responses was received by the end of the consultation period.
- 2.2 The draft SCI was generally well-received, the Government Office commenting that it was "simply written and succinct". The various points requiring attention are summarised in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.3 The revised SCI is to be found at Appendix 2 to this report. The proposed amendments are shown in bold italics.
- 2.4 It will now be necessary for the revised SCI to be submitted to the Government Office for approval. As the SCI is a development plan document it will need to be approved by Council before such submission can take place.
- 2.5 When the revised SCI is submitted to the First Secretary of State the Council must also invite representations on the submitted document. If there are any objections as a result these will need to be considered by an Inspector appointed by the First Secretary of State.

## APPENDIX 1

<b>4. The District Council's Strategic Aims and Priorities</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Response by:</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1		Notes that the District Council's aims do not highlight East Midlands Airport and its importance to the region.	The SCI simply repeats current District Council aims and priorities. It would not be appropriate to seek to change such aims and priorities through the SCI.

<b>5. The Local Development Framework</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Response by:</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2	EMDA	Wishes to see <i>Destination 2010 – The Regional Economic Strategy for the East Midlands</i> included as one of those strategies with links to the LDF identified in the SCI.	Reference should be made to this strategy at paragraph 5.8 in the SCI.
3	EMDA	Welcomes the District Council's proposal to undertake an Airport Area Action plan and wishes to be involved in the production of any AAP which should also be informed by the Airport Economic Development Strategy.	The Airport AAP programme is a matter for consideration in a future review of the District Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS).
4	British Waterways	Suggests that the District Council considers preparing an Ashby Canal AAP.	The question of additional AAPs is one for consideration in future reviews of the District Council's LDS. It is not a matter that can be addressed through the SCI.
5	Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM)	A diagram explaining components of the LDF could be included.	Such a diagram should be added.

<b>6. Standards for Community Involvement</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Response by:</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Comments</b>
6	National Forest Company	Suggests that the District Council should undertake tourism/recreation/visitor needs assessment for the area to help assess relevant planning applications in the future.	Consideration may be given to the need for such a study in a future review of the District Council's LDS. It is not a matter that can be addressed through the SCI.
7	House Builders Federation (HBF)	Suggests the need to undertake a Housing Market Assessment to inform policy.	The need for such a study can be addressed as part of the review of the Council's LDS.

8	GOEM	<p>The District Council should highlight where and when its consultation database can be viewed and how it will be updated.</p> <p>While the tables at paragraphs 6.11 and 6.12 of the draft SCI give an outline of the key stages of Development Plan Document and Supplementary Planning Document preparation, it may also be useful to cross-refer these stages to the appropriate Regulation.</p> <p>The tables at 6.11 and 6.12 could be expanded to emphasise the aim of enabling people to influence the early development of planning documents and to seek consensus on issues (“front loading”) and to stress the need for continuous community engagement.</p>	These details should be added to the SCI.
9	GVA Grimley on behalf of Jelsons	Suggests the inclusion of additional detail in Table 6.11 to cover the form and scope of consultations.	These details should be added to the SCI.

### 7. Communities and Stakeholder Groups

No.	Response by:	Response	Comments
10	National Farmers Union (NFU)	Would like to see farmers added to the list of groups to be consulted on the LDF.	The draft SCI refers (at paragraph 7.2) to “Developers and property and development interests”. It would be appropriate to amend this to read “Developers and those with property and/or development interests”. Farmers (whether landowners or tenants) would fall within such a definition.
11	Leicestershire & Rutland Parish Plans Group (L&RPPG)	Parish Plans Groups and Parish Councils should be involved as well as the partnership whose members are listed in paragraph 7.5.	The role of Parish Plan Groups should be acknowledged in the SCI. The draft SCI already attaches great importance to the role of parish councils.
12	GOEM	If the District Council has signed a local compact with the voluntary and community sector it may be useful to refer to this in the SCI.	These details should be added to the SCI. An appendix has been included in the revised SCI identifying the main groups and the methods proposed to involve them.

		<p>At paragraph 7.1 in the draft SCI it may be helpful to indicate where the database of community and stakeholder groups can be viewed and how the Council proposes to keep it updated.</p> <p>At paragraph 7.2 in the draft SCI it may be useful to expand on which groups are considered to be 'hard to reach' and how the District Council will try to engage them.</p> <p>For clarity an appendix could be added to the SCI setting out specific and general consultation bodies and other organisations and government bodies to be consulted.</p>	
13	Arlington Securities	The District Council should promote wide consultation early on. However, once initial comments have been considered consultation should concentrate on key stakeholders and players.	It is considered that consultation should be inclusive at all stages.
14	Arlington Securities	The District Council should highlight the community groups, other key stakeholders and Statutory stakeholders that will be involved in LDF consultations.	Details of community groups can change and so are best addressed via the database. An appendix should be added identifying statutory consultees.
15	Miller Homes/Clowes Development	Stresses the need of the housing industry to be involved in all aspects of plan making involving housing.	This point is acknowledged.
16	Castle Donington Parish Council	The Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local and Parish Council should be involved as the collective body for all parish Councils.	This point is acknowledged.

<b>8. Methods of Community Engagement</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Response by:</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Comments</b>
17	NFU	Suggests that the District Council should not over rely on the internet.	The internet has a very important role to play, but it is acknowledged that other modes of communication must

			not be neglected.
18	L&RPPG	The most effective and efficient way of securing consultation is through the Parish Plans Groups facilitated by the Rural Community Council. Community Involvement should be sought at the consultation stage by referring to relevant Plan Groups and Parish Councils.	The role of Parish Plan Groups should be acknowledged in the SCI.
19	Ashby Civic Society	Request the use of adverts in local newspapers (Ashby Times) and the use of email updates to inform public of the LDF preparation process.	It is intended that key stages will be publicised using press notices (together with press releases). An e-mail alert system can be arranged for those on the District Council's database, but it will be necessary for e-mail addresses to be obtained.
20	GOEM	<p>It may prove useful to consider the advantages of the different methods of engagement set out in chapter 8 and identify how they might be used for the different types of planning documents set out in paragraph 6.10 and the different stages of document preparation.</p> <p>It would be useful to state (in chapter 8) that documents will be available to view at the council offices and other appropriate places (Regulation 26). A web link to the District Council's website could be added at paragraph 8.5.</p> <p>The ODPM Companion Guide to PPS12 suggests the SCI should be clear about the different stages of involvement – involvement, consultation, participation, and feedback – it may be useful to consider this in relation to the proposed methods of community engagement.</p>	These details should be added to the SCI.
21	British Wind Energy Association	Suggests adopting differing methods of community involvement depending on the stage of the planning process. With more emphasis on community engagement where benefits could be	It is envisaged that the methods of community engagement will vary depending on the stage in the LDF process.

		derived from a better informed public.	
22	Arlington Securities	Documents should be made available in a variety of forms: electronic, paper and in Braille and other languages.	This requirement is acknowledged in the SCI.
23	British Waterways	The District Council should set up email alert system.	See Item No.19.
24	British Waterways	Would welcome opportunity to submit responses electronically.	This is addressed in the draft SCI.
25	National Trust	Response forms and documents should be available electronically.	This is addressed in the draft SCI.
26	HBF	Welcomes the fact that the District Council has implemented a Planning Agents Forum and suggests that developers should be given an opportunity to be involved in workshops/focus groups.	The SCI identifies developers as a stakeholder group and it is envisaged that as such house builders would be involved in workshops and other methods of engagement.
27	GVA Grimley on behalf of Jelsons	Greater detail of public participation events should be included in the SCI.	It is envisaged that exhibitions and workshops will be used to facilitate community involvement, but that the format could vary depending on the issues to be discussed.
28	Castle Donington PC	The parish council needs to be involved prior to the 6 weeks statutory consultation on the "preferred options".	Continuous community engagement is the aim, but it is not possible to extend statutory consultation periods.
29	Castle Donington PC	All documents should be in plain English.	This point is acknowledged.

<b>9. Planning Applications</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Response by:</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Comments</b>
27	GOEM	The SCI is an opportunity for the District Council to set out where it aims to engage the community more closely in its consideration of planning applications. This could encompass encouragement for applicants to undertake pre-submission consultation, as part of the early engagement of the community, as well as identifying types of applications where the authority would undertake additional consultation, over and above the minimum set out in the Regulations.	Reference to the encouragement of pre-submission consultations should be added to the SCI.  Reference should also be made to the need for additional consultation arrangements where applications are contentious and complex.
29	L&RPPG	The District Council should involve the public mainly on contentious and major planning applications.	It is intended that the public would have an opportunity in be involved in all applications, but clearly the scale of involvement will increase with the complexity of the application.
30	Ashby Civic Society	Wishes to be informed of any applications that will affect historical visual and economic viability of Ashby.	The Civic Society will have an opportunity to comment on all applications in Ashby (via the Council's website), but it is not proposed to select particular applications for such consultation.
31	National Trust	Planning applications should be available to view online	Planning applications may now be viewed online. Plans are not yet available, but consideration is being given to facilitate this.