

Rochdale Local Development Framework Core Strategy Consultation on Issues and Options

STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION

SEPTEMBER 2008

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rochdale Council is in the process of preparing the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) as part of its Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy is the first DPD to be prepared as part of the LDF for Rochdale. It will set out the overall strategy for development in the borough and will provide the strategic context for the production of other more detailed documents to be produced later. These include the strategic land allocations and generic development control policies documents.

1.2 This document sets out how we are going to involve and consult with the public and stakeholders during the production of the Core Strategy and is based on the Councils Statement of Community Involvement. This consultation report covers the '**Issues and Options stage**'.

1.3 At future stages of the process, when the **Preferred Options** report is produced and when the **Core Strategy Development Plan Document** is submitted to the Secretary of State, this consultation statement will be updated and will feed into the requirements of Regulation 27 and 32.

1.4 Timetable for Core Strategy

Stage	Month/Year
Commencement	March 2007
Pre - publication consultation Reg 25: Issues and Options	8 September 2008 - 20 October 2008
Pre - publication consultation Reg 25: Preferred Options	February 2009 - April 2009
Publication of the Core Strategy (Pre - submission) Reg 27	October 2009
Submission of final version to Secretary of State Reg 32	March 2010
Examination in Public	July 2010
Binding Report	October 2010
Adoption	December 2010

1.5 The Core Strategy - Issues and Options Report is now available for consultation with the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal. The consultation has been planned for 6 weeks (between September - October 2008).

1.6 Some initial consultation has already been carried out with key stakeholders, officers and members in terms of;

- establishing a robust evidence/information base,
- ensuring alignment between Core Strategy and other programmes/strategies,
- identifying key issues and possible options for consultation and
- agreeing consultation methods and arrangements

Discussions on a draft version of the Core Strategy Issues and Options document have been held with some key stakeholders.

2. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN SO FAR

In advance of the publication of the Issues and Options Report the following consultations have taken place. These meetings have been useful in drafting the report so that it provides a good basis for wider public and stakeholder consultation.

- 16th January – Liaison/meeting with Highways Agency
- 18th February – Briefing session with RMBC Education Service
- 4th March - Presentation/meeting with ORESA
- 9th April – Briefing Session with Primary Care Trust
- 10th April – Meeting with Government Office North West to discuss issues and options
- 24th April –Presentation/meeting with RMBC Development Control Service
- 14th May - Presentation/meeting with the Environment Agency
- 20th May – Presentation/meeting with RMBC Environmental Management team
- 20th May – Presentation/meeting with Primary Care Trust and Acute Trust
- 20th May – Presentation/meeting with RMBC Township Managers
- 27th May – Presentation/meeting with Local Strategic Partnership
- 28th May – Presentation/meeting with Local Strategic Partnership Executive
- 3rd June – Presentation/meeting with Executive Leadership Team
- 5th June – Presentation/meeting with Impact Partnership management team
- 5th June – Presentation/meeting with Rochdale Transport Partnership
- 10th June - Presentation/meeting with RMBC Highways
- 10th June - Presentation/meeting with Impact Partnership management team
- 12th June – Sustainability Appraisal panel appraise Spatial Options
- 20th June – Sustainability Appraisal panel appraise Spatial Options
- 17th June – Presentation and briefing to elected Members
- 7th July - Presentation/meeting with Rochdale Transport Partnership
- 14th July – Cabinet agree to draft Issues and Options for consultation

3. HOW WE ARE GOING TO CONSULT AT THE ISSUES AND OPTIONS STAGE

The consultation process will follow the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Involvement 2007 and it will be consistent with recent changes to the regulations (now Regulation 25)

Proposed Methods

1. Hard copies of the Core Strategy Issues and Options Report and related documents available for inspection at libraries and Council Information Points.

2. Website – the consultation documents will be made available on the Council website to view and download where any comments can be made via the consultation portal hosted by ‘Limehouse’.
3. Letters of participation to those organisation that have not registered with the consultation portal but have an interest in the Core Strategy.
4. Media – A number of articles will be placed in the Observer covering the areas Rochdale, Middleton and Heywood throughout the period of the consultation.
5. Existing Channels – letters or emails to be sent to local councillors, adjoining district and county councils covering, and also to the Local Strategic Partnership. A global email will be sent to all employees of the Council.
6. Local Matters (civic newspaper) - will be sent out borough wide. The magazine will detail the role of the Core Strategy, a summary of some of the key Issues and Options from the Core Strategy, the dates of the consultation period and where and when the Core Strategy and its supporting documents are available to view.
7. Posters advertising the consultation will be on display at the Council Information Points, Libraries and Community Centres across Rochdale borough. The poster will explain the role of the Core Strategy and where and when a copy of the Core Strategy and its supporting documents can be viewed and commented on.
8. A leaflet summarising the thematic and spatial options will be made widely available to the public and consultees. The leaflet will summarise the role of the Core Strategy, how to access the full Issues and Options Report and other related documents. It also includes a freepost reply form. These leaflets will be available at all the Council Information Points, libraries, and community centres and at various presentations being held in the borough.
9. Staff will attend the following meetings and events to explain the issues and options and to help organisations and individuals to make informed responses.

Rochdale Town Hall, Rochdale 7-9pm Monday 22 September	Heywood Township Centre, Bamford Rd, Heywood 7-9pm Monday 29 September
Middleton Civic Centre, Fountain St, Middleton 7-9pm Thursday 25 September	The Littleborough Coach House, Lodge St, Littleborough 7-9pm Thursday 2 October

Briefings will be held at the public Township Committees on the following dates to inform every one of the public consultation arrangements.

Rochdale Township, Rochdale Town Hall, Rochdale 6.15- 9pm Monday 8 September	Pennine Township, St. James Primary School, Crossfield Road, Wardle 6.15- 9pm Monday 9 September
Heywood Township Heywood Township Centre, Bamford Rd, Heywood 6- 9pm Monday 10 September	Middleton Township, Middleton Civic Centre, Fountain St, Middleton 6.15- 9pm Monday 11 September

10. Other Public Meetings/Presentations

Hard to reach groups, i.e. major employers, elderly people, BME groups, young people and disabled will be targeted through meetings/workshops. Details of these meeting can be found by contacting Strategic Planning directly.

4. DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

- 4.1 Copies of the Issues and Options report will be made available to statutory consultees. In addition, copies will be available for inspection at the locations highlighted in Appendix 1
- 4.2 The issues and options report and comments form, Sustainability Appraisal and the Consultation Statement will be available to view and download from the Council website www.rochdale.gov.uk/yourviews from the 8th September 2008.
- 4.3 Additional printed copies of the issues and options report and can be requested from the Strategic Planning Service (See address below)
- 4.4 Those who wish to view this in large print or in Braille should contact the office below to arrange this. Similarly, if anyone requires the translation of this document to be made in Bengali or Urdu they should also contact the office below to make the necessary arrangements.

5. ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

For further information relating to this document please contact:

Strategic Planning Service
Planning & Regulation
Rochdale Council
Floor 2, Telegraph House
Bailie Street
Rochdale
Po Box 32
OL161JH

Tel: 01706 924369

By email: Strategic.planning@Rochdale.gov.uk

Website: www.rochdale.gov.uk/yourviews

Appendix 1

Council Information Points:

Planning and Regulation Reception, Floor 1, Telegraph House, Baillie Street, Rochdale
Rochdale Information Centre, Floor 2, Municipal Offices, Smith Street, Rochdale
Heywood Information Centre, 44-46 Market Street, Heywood
Middleton Information Centre, Sadler Street, Middleton
Milnrow Information centre, 82 Dale Street, Milnrow
Littleborough Information Centre, Council Offices, Harehill Park, Littleborough
Kirkholt Information Centre, 46 The Strand, Kirkholt, Rochdale

Libraries

Wheatsheaf Library, Baillie Street, Rochdale
Balderstone Library, Balderstone Park, Rochdale
Belfield Library, Belfield Community School, Samson Street, Rochdale
Castleton Library, 881 Manchester Road, Rochdale
Smallbridge Library, Stevenson Square, Rochdale
Spotland Library, Ings Lane, Rochdale
Norden Library, Norden Community School, Shawfield Lane. Rochdale

Heywood Library, Church Street, Heywood
Darnhill Library, Argyle Parade, Heywood

Middleton Library, Long Street, Middleton
Alkrington Library, Kirkway, Middleton
Langley Library, Windermere Road, Middleton

Littleborough Library, Hare Hill Park, Littleborough
Milnrow Library, Newhey Road, Milnrow
Smithybridge Library, 121/3 Smithybridge Road, Littleborough
Wardle Library, 448 Birch Road, Wardle, Rochdale