

BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to highlight biodiversity and development issues in Rochdale Borough and to ensure that all stakeholders understand the potential impacts of development on biodiversity, both positive and negative. It will provide a body of policy and practical guidance and good practice for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the design, construction and future use of development.
- 1.2 In order to ensure that appropriate public consultation takes place, SPDs are required to be accompanied by a statement setting out how the Local Planning Authority will comply with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This document details the public consultation that will take place to meet these requirements.
- 1.3 The new planning system introduced during 2004 includes new requirements (e.g. community involvement and the need to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal) governing the preparation of SPDs which replace the old style Supplementary Planning Guidance documents (SPG). Whilst not having 'development plan' status, SPDs will be afforded greater weight in the development control process than SPGs.
- 1.4 This document sets out the public participation procedures to be undertaken by the Council for the Biodiversity and Development SPD. It accords with regulation 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England regulations 2004).
- 1.5 Using the guidelines of the new government regulations and PPS 12, the public consultation draft SPD has been prepared through a process of consultation.

2. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT TO DATE

2.1 Early consultation

Early consultation was carried out to engage with local wildlife interests and key environmental bodies about the scope, purpose and content of the document. This included:

- Presentations to Oldham and Rochdale Nature Conservation Advisory Group. This is a regular meeting involving a wide range of local community and voluntary sector nature conservation societies and organisations.
- Preliminary stakeholder meetings involving Natural England, Environment Agency, British Waterways, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Greater Manchester Ecology Unit.

These activities helped to identify key issues and guidance for incorporation into the draft SPD.

2.2 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process

The first part of the SA process involved collecting background information for inclusion in the Scoping Report which enabled the scope of the SA to be determined. It was also a consultation document which allowed organisations and individuals to comment on the proposed scope of the SA. Consultation responses received helped to ensure that the draft SA was comprehensive and robust enough to support the SPD during later stages of full public consultation and examination.

Paper copies of the draft Scoping Report were sent out on the 20th August 2007 and recipients given a period of five weeks, until 24th September, to make comments. Government requires that three specific bodies (as required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) were consulted at this stage – Natural England,

English Heritage and the Environment Agency. Although not statutorily required, the following bodies were also consulted:

- Government Office for the North West
- The North West Regional Assembly
- Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
- Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Rochdale Civic Society
- Rochdale Local Strategic Partnership
- Home Builders Federation
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Lancashire Wildlife Trust
- British Waterways
- Rochdale Field Naturalists Society

Consultation responses have been received, recorded and incorporated into the Scoping Report as required. A draft SA has been completed for this SPD and is subject to public consultation as part of the SPD consultation exercise between 7th November and 12th December 2007.

2.3 Public Consultation

In accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, public consultation will include direct notification to consultees, key local stakeholders and other interested parties. Publicity will also be provided through the local press.

On publication of the draft SPD a public consultation exercise will be undertaken to raise awareness and interest. In accordance with Regulation 17, a public notice will be published in a local newspaper which clearly states the duration of the public consultation period and the places and times at which the SPD can be inspected.

Public consultation is scheduled to commence on Wednesday 7 November and end on Wednesday 12 December by which date all comments must be received. The following consultation methods will be used:

- The draft SPD will be available on the Council's website [Rochdale.gov.uk/council and democracy/consultations.aspx](http://Rochdale.gov.uk/council%20and%20democracy/consultations.aspx) . Comments may be made online;
- Hard copies of documents will be available for inspection at Council offices, libraries and community centres as detailed in Appendix 1;
- Letters will be sent to all parties Rochdale Council considers to have an interest in the SPD including statutory consultees, general consultees, local voluntary and community interests. The letter will include details of the role of the SPD and how and where to view the draft SPD and associated documents including the draft SA and make comment;
- A public notice will be placed in the Rochdale Observer, Heywood Advertiser and Middleton Guardian newspapers. A press release will also be issued prior to commencement of public consultation.
- Paper or electronic copies of the SPD or associated documents are available on request (see contact details below).
- Those who wish to view this in large print or in Braille or for translation into Bengali or Urdu should contact the office below to arrange this.

The SPD will be presented to Heywood, Middleton, Pennines and Rochdale Township Committees during the November cycle as part of the consultation exercise.

A workshop for officers and Members and a further workshop for voluntary and community groups concerned with biodiversity will be held in November 2007 as a part of the consultation process.

On completion of the consultation exercise, the SPD will be revised as required to reflect responses. It will be submitted to Cabinet in January 2008 for adoption.

3 ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

For further advice or information relating to this document please contact:

Strategic Planning Team
Planning and Regulation Service
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
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Telephone: 01706 924369

Email: strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk

Website: [www.rochdale.gov.uk/council and democracy/consultations.aspx](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/consultations.aspx)

APPENDIX 1

Venues for public inspection of Biodiversity and Development SPD (subject to normal opening hours)

Council Information Points:

Planning and Regulation Reception, Floor 1, Telegraph House, 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

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

Heywood Library, Church Street, Heywood
Darnhill Library, Argyle Parade, Heywood
Norden Library, Edenfield Road, Rochdale

Middleton Library, Long Street, Middleton
Alkrington Library, Kirkway
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 Bh Road, Wardle, Rochdale

Community Centres

Alkrington Community Centre
Butterworth Hall Community Centre
Elm Street Community Centre
Back o'th 'Moss Community Centre
Brotherod Community Centre
Emmerson Community Centre
Bamford Community Centre
Castleton Community Centre
Gateway Centre
Bangladesh Association & Community Centre
Cleworth Road Youth Club
Greave Community Centre
Darnhill Community Centre
Jumbo Community Centre
Brookside Community Centre
Deeplish Community Centre
Heady Hill Community Centre
Burnside Family Centre
Demesne Community Centre
Crimble Croft Community Centre
Hollins Lane Social Centre
Minrow & Newhey Community Centre

Springvale Social Centre
Kashmir Youth Centre
Milnrow Community Centre
Boarshaw Community Centre
Kirkholt Community Centre
Newbold Community Centre
STARA Community Centre
Langley Community Centre
Stoke House Youth Project
Littleborough Youth Group
Sparrow Hill Community Centre
Sutherland Community Centre
Matthew Moss Youth Club
Sparth Community Centre
Turf Hill Community Centre
Meadowfield Community Centre
Spotland Community Centre
Wardle & Smallbridge Community Centre
Wardleworth Community Centre
Wardleworth Womens Welfare Ass
Wardle Community Centre
The Moss Centre