

EAST CENTRAL ROCHDALE AREA FRAMEWORK SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Supplementary Planning Document (East Central Rochdale Area Framework) has been produced by the Council to guide development within this area. In order to ensure that appropriate public consultation takes place, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) 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). Consequently this document details the public consultation that will take place in order to meet the requirements of the SCI.
- 1.2 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 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) which replaces the old style Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). As a result, whilst not having 'development Plan' status, SPD's will be afforded greater weight in the development control process than SPG's.
- 1.3 This document sets out the public participation procedures to be undertaken by the Council, which are associated with the draft SPD. It accords with regulation 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Local development) (England regulations 2004).
- 1.4 Using the guidelines of the new government regulations and PPS 12 the public consultation draft SPD proposals have been prepared through a process of consultation.

2. PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION SO FAR

- 2.1 The process of producing the supplementary planning document consisted of the following stages:

Stage 1: Early consultation work with the public

Stage 2: The Sustainability Appraisal

Stage 3: Testing the guidance

2.2 **Stage One: Early consultation work with the public**

As part of the early preparation, some of the issues set out in the ECR SPD were looked at as part of the Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) Consultation in June/early July 2007, and co-ordinated by RDA. Some of the key land use principles and layout for the SPD development area were tested through the SRF Consultation exercise. This included a consultation questionnaire which was distributed at the various exhibitions that were held which invited the general public to ask questions and fill out a questionnaire.

2.3 **Stage two: The SA Process**

The first part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process was to collect information on East Central Rochdale. The Scoping report also looked at other plans and programmes to identify how they influenced and impacted upon the SPD. The key aim of the scoping report was to identify the key sustainability issues for the SPD area.

This was consulted on, through the sending out of paper copies of the Scoping Report, for a period of 5 weeks from 25th June 2007 to 30th July 2007. The Government has stated that the four consultation bodies (as required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) should be consulted at this stage. These bodies are the Countryside Agency and English Nature (which have been combined into Natural England), English Heritage and the Environment Agency.

Other consultees at the SA Scoping stage were:

- Government Office for the North West
- The North West Regional Assembly
- United Utilities
- English Partnerships
- Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
- Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive
- Greater Manchester Geology Unit
- Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit
- Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Rochdale Civic Society
- Rochdale Local Strategic Partnership
- Rochdale Disability Panel
- Rochdale Development Agency
- Rochdale Township Office
- Pennines Township Office

The second part of the process was to prepare SA framework against which a plan or programme can be assessed. The SA framework incorporates a range of objectives and questions adapted from national, regional, sub-regional and local sources to fit the key sustainability issues and aspirations of Rochdale Borough.

The appraisals have been undertaken using an iterative process so that the SA has informed the development of the SPD. This has ensured that the SPD has already met many of the sustainability objectives within the Councils framework. The Draft SA is also subject to public consultation.

2.4 **Stage 3: Testing the guidance**

In compiling the draft SPD, the detailed proposals of the draft SPD were worked up in consultation with statutory bodies and key stakeholders. The council have made a number of changes to the documents prior to statutory consultation to ensure that the feedback from key stakeholders had been taken on board as far as was possible.

2.5 Approval for public consultation by Cabinet was made on 17th December 2007.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION (MARCH/APRIL 2008)

- 3.1 In accordance with the councils Statement of Community Involvement, the consultation process will included direct notification to consultees, key local stakeholders and other interested parties and publicity through the local press.
- 3.2 On publication of the Draft East Central Rochdale 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 participation period and the place and times at which the SPD can be inspected.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that public consultation will commence on the 10th March 2008 for five weeks and the closing date for responses will be 14th April 2008. The following methods will be used:

- As set out in the Consultation Statement the Consultation Draft SPD documents and consultation documents are available on the Council's website rochdale.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/consultations.aspx (with the ability to comment on-line). Hard copies of the document will be made available at the all the council offices, Borough Libraries and community centres (See Appendix 1)
- Letters will be sent to all parties Rochdale Council considers having an interest in the SPD (including statutory consultees, general consultees, local businesses and any other interested parties). The letter will detail the role of the SPD, the consultation opportunity and the times and locations the SPD, the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment and this conformity statement can be viewed.
- A public notice will be placed in the Rochdale Observer and a press release will be sent out to the local newspaper prior to the Public Consultation. The advertisement will explain the role of the SPD and where and where a copy of the SPD and its supporting documents can be viewed ahead of the Public Consultation period.
- Staff from the Council will be available to answer any questions on the draft guidance at the exhibition planned during the public consultation period below:

Tuesday 11 March	2pm - 7pm	Wardleworth Community Centre
Wednesday 12 March	3.30pm – 7.30pm	Belfield Community School

- A leaflet will be sent out to all the households in East Central Rochdale. The leaflet will detail the role of the SPD, a summary of some of the key themes and principles from the SPD, the dates of the consultation period and where and when the SPD and its supporting documents are available to view. These leaflets will be available at all the council offices, libraries, community centres and at the exhibitions.
- A questionnaire will be available at the exhibition for anyone who wishes to make comments.
- The SPD, SA and related documents will be available to view at the Council's offices, libraries and community centres. Moreover, anyone wishing to make comments will

be able to visit the Rochdale Councils website to view the SPD and related documents and submit their response online.

- Posters will be on display at the Council Offices, Libraries and some Community Centres across Rochdale borough. The poster will explain the role of the SPD and where and when a copy of the SPD and its supporting documents can be viewed and commented on.
- Copies of the SPD and the associated documents will also be made available at the first floor reception in the Council's Planning & Regulation Service, Telegraph House and Information Office, Second floor, Municipal Offices.
- Paper or electronic copies of the documents are available on request.

4. DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

- 4.1 Copies of the Draft SPD 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 draft SPD and response form, SA and the consultation Statement will be available to view and download from the Council website www.rochdale.gov.uk from the 10th March 2008.
- 4.3 Additional printed copies of the SPD 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.
- 4.5 As a consequence of this exercise the SPD will be revised in order to reflect the responses. Thereafter it will be submitted to Cabinet for adoption in 27th May 2008.

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/council_and_democracy/consultations.aspx

6. **APPENDIX 1**

Council Information Points:

Planning and Regulation Reception, Floor 1, Telegraph House, Rochdale
Rochdale Information Centre, Floor 2, Municipal Offices, Smith Street, Rochdale
Kirkholt Information Centre, 46 The Strand, Kirkholt, 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, Hare Hill Park, Littleborough

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
Norden Library, Norden Community School, Shawfield Lane, Rochdale
Smallbridge Library, Stevenson Square, Rochdale
Spotland Library, Ings Lane, Rochdale

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

Middleton Library, Long Street, Middleton
Alkington Library, Kirkway
Langley Library, Windermere Road, Middleton
Middleton Junction Library, Jumbo Social Centre, Grimshaw Lane, 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 / Offices within East Central Rochdale as follows:

Bangladesh Association & Community Centre
Kashmir Youth Centre
Meadowfield Community Centre
Wardle & Smallbridge Community Centre
Wardleworth Community Centre
Wardleworth Womens Welfare Ass