

PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS FOR THE CORE STRATEGY PUBLICATION DOCUMENT PRE-HEARING MEETING

Woking Borough Council is satisfied that the Core Strategy Publication Document has been prepared in accordance with all the procedural requirements set out in legislation and guidance.

The Council has carried out a detailed [self assessment of how the tests of soundness and the legal requirements have been met](#). This has been submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the Submission Documents and is published on the Council's website.

The Inspector has asked a series of procedural questions for the purposes of the Pre-Hearing Meeting. The answers that are provided to these questions are only a brief summary of how the specific requirements have been met. The answers are in the order as set out by the procedural questions of the Pre-Hearing Meeting agenda (ID/2). The procedural questions asked by the Inspector are in bold.

- 1. Has the Core Strategy (CS) been prepared in accordance with the statutory procedures of the 2004 Act and the associated regulations, including in respect of publication and availability of documents, advertisements and notifications?**

The Core Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the relevant statutory procedures as set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended). Details of how the legal requirements are met are set out in the Council's published ['Self assessment of the tests of soundness and legal requirements'](#). This document is part of the Submission Documents to the Secretary of State and is also published on the Council's website.

- 2. Has the Council satisfied the 'duty to cooperate' as indicated by S33A of the 2004 Act? Has the Core Strategy taken account of the plans of adjoining local authorities and the County Council?**

The Council is satisfied that the 'duty to cooperate' as set out by S33A of the 2004 Act (as amended) has been met. Details of how this has been achieved are set out in the Council's Topic Paper ['Self assessment of the conformity of the Core Strategy Publication Document with national and regional policy, Woking and Surrey Sustainable Community Strategies and key priorities of the Council'](#). This Topic Paper is part of the Submission Documents to the Secretary of State and is also published on the Council's website. Further details have also been provided to the Inspector in response to his letter of 5 January 2012 (ID/1). The [Inspector's letter](#) is on the Council's website.

- 3. Has the Core Strategy been prepared in accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme?**

The Core Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme. The Council's adopted [Local Development Scheme](#) is published on the website.

- 4. Has the Core Strategy been prepared in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and met the minimum**

requirements of the relevant regulations in terms of consultation and publicity?

The Core Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the [Statement of Community Involvement](#). The Statement of Community Involvement is part of the Submission Documents submitted to the Secretary of State and is published on the website. The Core Strategy has also been prepared in accordance with relevant regulations set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended). A [Consultation Statement](#) has been submitted as part of the Submission Documents to the Secretary of State and is published on the website. Further clarification has been prepared in response to the Inspector's letter of 5 January 2012 (ID/1). Details of how the legal requirements are met are set out in the Council's published '[Self assessment of the tests of soundness and legal requirements](#)'. This document is part of the Submission Documents to the Secretary of State and is also published on the Council's website.

5. Has the Core Strategy been subject to sustainability appraisal with a final report of the findings?

A sustainability appraisal of the policies of the Core Strategy Publication Document has been carried out. [A Sustainability Appraisal Report](#) setting out the findings of the sustainability appraisal has been prepared and is part of the Submission Documents to the Secretary of State. It is also published on the website. The Sustainability Appraisal Report has been prepared in accordance with relevant legislation and good practice guidance provided by Government.

6. Is the Core Strategy in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy and has this been confirmed?

The Core Strategy is in general conformity with the South East Plan, which is the Regional Spatial Strategy for the area. Details of how this has been achieved are set out in the Council's Topic Paper '[Self assessment of the conformity of the Core Strategy Publication Document with national and regional policy, Woking and Surrey Sustainable Community Strategies and key priorities of the Council](#)'. This Topic Paper is part of the Submission Documents to the Secretary of State and is also published on the Council's website. The extent to which the Core Strategy Publication Document is in general conformity with the South East Plan has not been confirmed. As part of the Government's reform to the planning system, the regional tier of planning was abolished. Consequently, the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) was closed by the time that the Core Strategy Publication Document was published and submitted.

7. Has the Core Strategy been screened for likely significant effects on any European Wildlife (Natura 2000) sites within and near the plan area and has an appropriate assessment been carried out?

The Core Strategy has been screened for likely significant effects on European Wildlife (Natura 2000) sites and Ramsar sites within and near the area covered by the Core Strategy. The outcome of the screening confirmed that an Appropriate Assessment will not be needed for any of the policies. Recommended actions identified by the screening process have informed the policies of the Core Strategy Publication Document. Detailed information is contained in the [Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening](#) that has been carried out by the Council. This is part of the Submission Documents to the Secretary of State and it is published on the website.

8. Does the Core Strategy contain, as relevant, a list of superseded saved development plan policies?

The Core Strategy Publication Document does not contain a list of superseded saved development plan policies. The Council has always been aware that this list is important to be included in the Core Strategy. However, it had intended to do so when the Core Strategy is adopted. A statement setting out which Local Plan policies will be superseded by the policies of the Core Strategy was prepared before the Core Strategy Publication Document was published. This statement has been used internally for providing advice to Development Management consultations. In seeking to address the Inspector's questions set out in his Pre-Hearing Meeting agenda, a copy of the statement has now been sent to the Inspector and will be published on the Council's website for general information. The Core Strategy has been prepared on the assumption that it will not repeat regional or national planning policies. Consequently, this statement will be reviewed when the National Planning Policy Framework is finally published.

9. Has the Core Strategy taken account of the Council's other plans, including the Sustainable Community Strategy?

The Core Strategy Publication Document takes account of the Council's other plans, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the key priorities of the Council and provides a strong policy framework for their delivery. Details of how this has been achieved are set out in the Council's Topic Paper '[Self assessment of the conformity of the Core Strategy Publication Document with national and regional policy, Woking and Surrey Sustainable Community Strategies and key priorities of the Council](#)'. This Topic Paper is part of the Submission Documents to the Secretary of State and is also published on the Council's website. Paragraphs 1.29 to 1.32 of the Core Strategy Publication Document and Figure 2. of the Core Strategy Publication Documents highlights the relationship between the Core Strategy Publication Document and other plans and strategies. This matter was also particularly considered by the Council's Executive Committee at its meeting on 24 November 2012.

10. What is the programme, and is it being met, for the preparation of other development plan documents?

The Council's programme for the preparation of its development plan documents is set out in the Local Development Scheme. At this stage, timescales set out in the Local Development Scheme has been met. The [Local Development Scheme](#) is available on the website.

11. Is the Council aware of any fundamental procedural shortcomings?

The Council, to the best of its knowledge, is not aware of any fundamental procedural shortcomings.