

Core Strategy Pre-Submission Publication and Submission Consultation Requirements

Background:

Regulation 27 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 requires that before submitting a Development Plan Document the Local Authority must undertake a six-week consultation on the proposed submission documents.

Consultation Proposals:

The following arrangements will be put in place for consulting on the Submission Core Strategy:

- The consultation on the pre-submission Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal Report will take place between 7th January and 18th February 2010. Representations will be invited on the publication documents, which the Council intends to submit for independent examination. All representations must be made within the time-frame set out.
- A statement of representations covering the previous consultation stages - the Issues and Options stage, Revised Issues and Options stage and Preferred Options stage, will be developed prior to publication as set out in Regulation 24. This statement will set out: who was invited to be involved in the plan preparation; how they were invited; and a summary of the main issues raised and how they have been addressed. A Statement of Representation Procedures will also be prepared in accordance with Regulation 27. This will set out detailed advice on how to make a representation on the publication documents.
- A copy of the pre-submission publication Core Strategy; the Sustainability Appraisal Report; the Consultation Statement and the Statement of Representations Procedure will be placed at both the Kidderminster and Stourport Customer Service Hubs and at each of the three libraries within the District.
- A copy of the above documents will be published on the District Council's website together with a statement setting out that the documents are available for inspection and the times and locations at which the documents can be inspected.
- A copy of the pre-submission publication Core Strategy; the SA Report; the Consultation Statement, and the Statement of Representations Procedure will be sent to all of the specific consultation bodies invited to make representations at the Issues and Options and Preferred Options stage. (The SA Report and Consultation Statement will be provided electronically).
- A copy of the Statement of Representations Procedure and a statement setting out that documents are available to view and when and where they may be viewed, will be sent to all of the general consultation bodies and consultees invited to comment at the Issues and Options and Preferred Options stages.
- A notice will be placed in the local newspapers, which sets out the Statement of Representations Procedure and details of where and when the documents will be available for inspection.

Regional Conformity:

The Council is required to make a request to the West Midlands Regional Assembly seeking advice as to the proposed submission document's conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy. As such, a request will be made on the day that the local advertisement is published.

Regulation 31 Statement:

A summary of the main issues raised by the representations received will be prepared in accordance with Regulation 31. Representations received will be submitted to the Secretary of State to examine as part of the submission material.

The Local Authority must be of the opinion that the pre-submission Core Strategy which it publishes is sound. Should any representation received lead the authority to question its earlier view that the plan is sound, then the authority has the ability to make changes to the proposed DPD and publish any addendum for a further six-week period before submitting the DPD for examination.

Submitting the Core Strategy

The submission of the DPD will be publicised in the following ways in accordance with Regulation 30:

- All relevant submission documents will be made available for viewing at the Worcestershire Hubs in Kidderminster and Stourport and the three libraries within the District.
- All relevant submission material will be published on the District Council's website.
- An advertisement will be placed in the local press setting out details of the submission DPD.
- Specific consultation bodies will be notified and will receive a copy of the submission documents.
- General consultation bodies will be notified and will receive notification of where the submission documents are available for inspection.