



Record
**North Wiltshire
Local Development Framework – Core Strategy
Local Strategic
Partnership Consultation Forum
20 February 2006**

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Local Development Framework – Core Strategy
Local Strategic Partnership Consultation Forum**

20 February 2006, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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Welcome and Purpose

Dave Ashmore welcomed everyone to the meeting. He acknowledged the importance of the consultation forum on the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy by emphasising that the physical development of the district is directly linked to the work of the LSP, especially in terms of realising the Community Strategy. Dave spoke the purpose of the consultation forum as being the opportunity for the LSP to be involved in the creation of the Core Strategy of the LDF by responding to what has been drafted so far.

Dave then went on to introduce Maria Scordialos and Sarah Whiteley as the facilitators of the session who have worked closely with the LSP over the past few years and also Lachlan Robertson and Andrew Lane from the Spatial Planning Team who would provide contextual and specialist information during the consultation forum. He handed over to Maria Scordialos

Maria Scordialos began by reinforcing the importance of this consultation. Specifically, she spoke that the LSP is the only forum that brings together partners from across the district and organisations and is the only place where a strategic overview of North Wiltshire is held. She invited the LSP members to listen from this perspective and to respond from the knowledge they hold of the district that has been gained through the development of the Community Strategy. Maria went on to share the programme of the consultation forum:

- Overview of the LDF
- Spatial Portrait
- Issues and Development Models
- Options
- Spatial Vision

A methodical approach would be taken with Lachlan and Andrew offering information and then the LSP being given time to respond through small group discussions. Maria also said that the section in the Core Strategy under Strategic Objectives would not be covered during this consultation forum due to time, but that LSP 'champions' of these areas would be invited to respond through a questionnaire. She emphasised the importance of capturing key insights and responses on the worksheets that will be given out so that a Record of the consultation forum could be written. Lastly, Maria said that Sarah will be taking photographs as this is an important part of the audit trail that the Spatial Planning Team will need to have as an important part of the LDF process is to give evidence of community involvement.

Overview of the LDF

Lachlan Robertson offered an overview of the LDF by sharing:

- The changes to the local planning process were brought in by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act of 2004
- Local Planning Authorities are now required to create Local Development Frameworks which is a family of documents and replaces the Local Plan up to 2010
- There is now a regional role through the South West Regional Spatial Strategy which is due to be published in March 2006, replacing the role previously held at the County level
- The Core Strategy is the key document in the LDF as it sets the foundation for all the other documents to be monitored against
- The LDF process includes:
 - An initial evidence gathering period which took place in 2005 and created the foundation for the information in the Core Strategy
 - The identification of core issues and options which is what we are now consulting you on until April 2005
 - Based on the response we get we will produce a Preferred Options document which we will again consult on during the summer
 - We will then prepare the submission of the Core Strategy and this will be submitted to the Secretary of State by December 2006
 - There will then be another period of consultation on the submission in December 2006 and the evaluation of this will take place in 2007 with the adoption of the Core Strategy taking place in 2007

(Please see Appendix A for a copy of the Power Point presentation offered at the consultation session).

Maria invited any questions of clarification on the overview of the LDF:

- What is the time frame that the LDF includes and will be implemented in and will this be by 2010, which is the current Local Plan time frame?
 - *Each document of the LDF will take a strategic slice from the current Local Plan so that the aspects contained in the Local Plan will eventually be included in the family of LDF documents and most probably by 2010 the Local Plan will cease to exist*
- How robust is this process in terms of local government re-organising?
 - *The LDF process is more robust than our current Local Plan because of it being made up of a collection of documents that are interlinked and yet specific*

Spatial Portrait of North Wiltshire

Andrew Lane explained that the issues and options identified in the Core Strategy are based on an evidence gathering of data and information, i.e. spatial profile of the district and that this is translated into a spatial portrait of North Wiltshire.

(Please see Appendix A for a copy of the Power Point presentation offered at the consultation session).

Response to the Spatial Portrait of North Wiltshire

Maria invited the LSP to give their response to the presentation of the spatial portrait of North Wiltshire and to add any additional information they hold. Working in four small groups the following information was fed back:

1. What is your response to the spatial portrait of North Wiltshire as presented?

- The features on the face are described – every face has these – how do you put them together provides the unique expression / beauty
- No problem with what is written, but some aspect are missing, e.g., transport challenges and access
- The figures do not match or reflect the second bullet point in section 6.9. Danger that the way this is phrased implies that we have a diverse district and could lead to complacency. Would prefer to see a phrase that challenges us more, e.g. more needs to be done to encourage multiculturalism
- 6.9 – way this phrase implies that young people are wrong and undermines their views
- Higher unemployment amongst younger people based on survey in Corsham area
- Impact of the M4 and ability to move people within and outside the district
- Wootten Bassett relates far more to Swindon than Chippenham
- Corsham relates to Bath/Bristol/Bradford on Avon – not Chippenham
- Malmesbury – looks to Swindon – not Chippenham
- Leisure travel is driving the economy
- Morning transport not of retail importance

2. What information would you like to add that better describes the district?

- Information around the fact that the M4 runs through the District and influences tourism patterns, governance, economic patterns, housing -> this should be given greater prominence: why not in 6.2
- It is something too easy to just drive through
- Something around the fierce level of protection that residents feel over their village is the villages around them – that rural identity is very important to residents and influences how they feel about future development

- Communications infrastructure - a map of what exists/does not exist, (electronic and physical) should be included
- Transport links/accessibility should be included
- Social issues need to be highlighted, e.g. where are pockets of deprivation, types of crime experienced, etc.
- Need more about the demography of North Wiltshire
- Need to include the military employment figures
- Show more of an interface with Cotswolds/North Wessex Downs AONBs
- Where are the bases for services – scarcity of population density
- House prices vs. income average
- Sustainability

Issues and Development Models

Andrew Lane presented the three key themes of issues from the Core Strategy:

- Theme 1 – the protection of the **historic and natural environment**
- Theme 2 – the delivery of services important to the **social and cultural wellbeing**
- Theme 3 – the delivery of **economic development, regeneration and growth**
- Issues what common to all themes – **inward migration and sustainability**

(Please see Appendix A and Appendix B for detail of issues under each theme, which was handed out as a support document for the group discussions at the Consultation Forum).



Response to the Issues and Development Models

1. Response to Issues

What is your response to the three themes of issues just presented and do you have anything to add?		
Theme One The Protection of the Historic and Natural Environment	Theme Two The Delivery of Services that are important to the Social and Cultural Well- being	Theme 3 The Delivery of Economic Development, Regeneration and Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include protection of biodiversity areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a broad area. Needs to include specific reference to needs of an aging population we are all living longer, (hopefully) and there is already pressure on services for older people which will increase (infrastructure section?) • Is there sufficient land to accommodate housing demand? • More land needs to be released 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should inward investment be included in this theme rather than totally common between all themes?
<p>General Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recognise that all the themes relate to one another – it is very difficult to separate some of the issues • Villages and towns should play to their strengths? • Rural and urban are not so clearly separated – we are mostly a mixture • Agree that public transport is an absolutely <u>key</u> issue that relates to all the themes • The present is the child of the past, but the parent of the future 		

2. Response to Development Models

What is your response to the development models and do you have anything to add?		
Concentrating the issues of the theme at only a few places in the District	Concentrating in the main settlements of the District	Considering and implementing the theme evenly across the whole of the District
<p>General Comments:</p>		

- Can the development model be different for each theme or major issue? This may be more complex but would result in more appropriate actions and strategic direction
- The themes would have to be capable of being delivered on a multi model basis

Options

Lachlan Robertson explained the rationale behind the Options Matrix as a particular, “mind set” where the three development models are presented against each of the three themes, therefore offering nine different options. He specifically explained this was offered as a way of framing the discussion so that options can be considered during the consultation looking at the future spatial development of the district from different lenses. It is not expected that one option will be chosen, but that in considering how and where development takes place there needs to be a realisation that some options conflict with others and therefore decisions will need to be made.

Maria invited the small groups back into conversation by asking them to consider the options and to tick the option or combination of options they believe will best meet the needs of North Wiltshire

The following was shared:

- Rubik (colour) meets Suduko (frequency) – we believe that there is a need to create a different model for looking at the options, one that is 3D and allows issues to be looked in relation to location and also frequency of need
- Key to implementing any option is trust/co-operation – this is the ‘spring’ or internal glue that allows all the colours/numbers to move
- To distribute across whole district would lead to:
 - Too thinly spread
 - Threatens identity
- Option 5 – recognises:
 - Allows for different areas of expertise
 - Centre of excellence
 - Economies of scale
- Option 8 – but benefits:
 - Affordable housing evenly spread across district based on NEED



Spatial Vision Statements

Lastly, Maria asked each group to translate the option(s) they had identified into a spatial vision statement for the district. The following statements were created:

- The district is a place where people prefer to live, work and play, thereby avoiding the need for outward migration
- Create sustainable communities
- To recognise and celebrate diversity – building on each areas strengths to create sustainable communities
- Ability to respond, targeting according to need, able to be sustained

Next Steps

Andrew invited the LSP 'champions' of the eight themes making up the Community Strategy to take a Core Strategy questionnaire and fill in the section on the Strategic Objectives. He also invited LSP members to take a Core Strategy questionnaire if they wished to fill it in on behalf of their organisations or communities.

The LSP was thanked for their participation and an invitation to continue being involved in the next phase of the LDF in terms of the Preferred Option was extended.

Dave Ashmore thanked, Lachlan, Andrew, Maria and Sarah saying that this was very important work that the LSP should continue to be involved in.