

Soundness testing and statutory requirements



Core Strategy Preferred Options



Soundness testing and statutory requirements – Core Strategy Preferred Options stage

1. Introduction

1.1 Under the new planning system Local Development Framework (LDF) development plan documents (DPDs) will be considered at Public Examination. The inspector will consider whether the LDF satisfies the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 relating to the preparation of DPDs in terms of procedure and whether they are 'sound'.

1.2 Planning Policy Statement 12: Creating Local Development Frameworks (PPS 12) states that "Local planning authorities should ensure that development plan documents are sound when submitted for examination" (paragraph 4.15). The soundness of each document is assessed according to nine tests of soundness as set out in PPS 12 and guidance documents produced by the Planning Inspectorate 'Development Plan Examination – a guide to the process of assessing the soundness of Development Plan documents (2005)' and the Planning Advisory Service 'LDF soundness self assessment toolkit (2006)'. Local planning authorities (LPAs) may find it useful to carry out an objective self assessment process having regard to the tests in PPS 12 to satisfy themselves that they have produced a sound DPD. Where they do this, their assessment can be used as part of their evidence for the Public Examination.

1.3 The soundness toolkit provides a framework to assist LPAs to draw up an appropriate self assessment statement. It is in two parts, the first provides guidance to assist in the preparation of DPDs, and the second provides the basis for the self assessment assessment. The soundness toolkit has been used as the template for Salisbury District Council Soundness Self Assessment Statement for the LDF Core Strategy Preferred Options.

1.4 Although not formally required at the Core Strategy Preferred Options stage, the local planning authority consider this stage in the production of the Core Strategy presents a good opportunity to assess the soundness of the emerging document and once the final submission document has been produced, the soundness of the document will be reassessed. Assessing the soundness of the document at this stage also represents good practice and will provide the evidence base to inform the public Examination. Once the final submission document has been produced this document will be updated to assess the soundness and procedural requirements in at all stages in the production of the Core Strategy.

1.5 The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) has issued guidance called 'Development Plans Examination – A guide to the process of assessing the soundness of development plan documents (2005)', which sets out how the inspector will manage the examination to assess whether the authority has complied with all the statutory requirements. While some statutory requirements are covered by the first five tests of soundness, many are not. Proof that requirements have been met will therefore need to be included in the self-assessment statement.

1.6 As stated above the Local Development Framework documents are subject to a number of tests of soundness and these tests are set out below (Figure 1). Related to the soundness of documents, guidance in PPS 12 states that the policies in development plan documents will be tested thoroughly during the independent examination of the development plan document. Section 20 of the Act sets out the purpose of the independent examination of a development plan document, which is to determine whether (i) it satisfies the statutory requirements for the preparation of the plan as set out in Section 19 of the Act and it is in general conformity with the regional spatial strategy; and (ii) it is sound. The presumption will be that the development plan document is sound unless it is shown to be otherwise as a result of evidence considered at the examination. The criteria for assessing whether a development plan document is sound will apply individually and collectively to policies in the development plan document. Furthermore the guidance states that where the development plan document relates to housing, local planning

authorities should produce housing trajectories, which will demonstrate how the plan will deliver the policies relating to housing provision. This will be important in clarifying the delivery mechanisms of the development plan document, which will be part of the test of whether it is sound.

Procedural	
1	It has been prepared in accordance with the local development scheme
2	It has been prepared in compliance with the statement of community involvement, or with the minimum requirements set out in the Regulations where no statement of community involvement exists
3	The plan and its policies have been subjected to sustainability appraisal
Conformity	
4	It is a spatial plan which is consistent with national planning policy and in general conformity with the regional spatial strategy for the region and it has properly had regard to any other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the area or to adjoining areas
5	It has had regard to the authority's community strategy
Coherence, consistency and effectiveness	
6	The strategies/policies/allocations in the plan are coherent and consistent within and between development plan documents prepared by the authority and by neighbouring authorities, where cross boundary issues are relevant
7	The strategies/policies/allocations represent the most appropriate in all the circumstances, having considered the relevant alternatives, and they are founded on a robust and credible evidence base
8	There are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring
9	The plan is reasonably flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances

Figure 1: Tests of soundness (PPS 12)

1.7 In relation to the definition of soundness, the act does not provide a statutory definition. The PINS guide advises that “sound” will have to be considered as having its ordinary meanings of “showing good judgement” and “able to be trusted” and in the context of fulfilling the expectations of legislation. The Inspector will consider all the evidence provided in making a judgement about the soundness of the DPD, including each of the documents required to be prepared by the authority.

2 Statutory requirements

2.1 This section sets out how the council has complied with formal procedural requirements of producing the Core Strategy. It is organised by each stage of the Core Strategy up until the current state of Preferred Options and will be updated when the Submission Draft is produced. It identifies the activities that are required at each stage as set out in the Planning Advisory Service LDF Soundness Self Assessment Toolkit.

Stage 1 – Pre production

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
Is the DPD identified in the LPA's adopted local development scheme?	The Act s19(1)	<p>The Core Strategy was identified in the first LDS under which work for the Core Strategy Issues and Options commenced. Due to team reorganisation a revised LDS was produced in June 2007. This LDS extended the timetable for the production of the Core Strategy and current work is now in accordance with this.</p> <p>Evidence: Salisbury District Council Local Development Scheme (June 2007): http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/ldf-full-lds.pdf</p>
Have you recorded the commencement of the DPD?		<p>Pre production was undertaken in early 2007 and pre-consultation was carried out with key stakeholders as the same time as outlined in the LDS (page 22 - 24). The LDS sets out clear project plans/timetables (page 24) showing key events, which enable the progress of the LDF to be assessed in the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>
Have any details set out in the LDS such as the role, rationale or scope of the DPD been met?	The Act s19(1)	<p>Pages 9 – 11 of the LDS set out an explanation of each local development document and provide details of the role of the Core Strategy. The Local Development Document profile on page 22 also sets out the role of the Core Strategy and these have been met in the Core Strategy stages produced so far.</p>
Is baseline information being collected and evidence being gathered to set the framework for the SA?	The Act s19(5)	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (June 2007) sets out the stages involved in the production of the Sustainability Appraisal and sets out the baseline information, which has been collected (page 9). It sets out a number of objectives which options in the Core Strategy would be assessed against to determine its sustainability (section 6).</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (June 2007): http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/sustainability-appraisal-final.pdf</p> <p>Topic Papers and evidence base: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/planning/forward-planning/local-development-framework/core-strategy/ourplace/ourplace-evidence.htm</p>
Are you collecting information on the conservation	Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment)(England)	<p>The Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy contains this information.</p>

objectives of any European wildlife (Natura 2000) sites?	and Wales) Regulations 2006 [forthcoming]	Evidence: Biodiversity Topic paper: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/topic5-biodiversity.pdf
Have you consulted the four statutory environment consultation bodies for five weeks on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be included in the SA Report?	Regulations 9 and 13 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 specify the consultation procedures for plans requiring SEA.	<p>The draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was consulted upon for a period of 6 weeks from 10 February 2006 to 31 March 2006. Copies were sent to the 4 statutory consultees; The Environment Agency, English Heritage, The Countryside Agency and English Nature (the latter two now form Natural England). All persons on the LDF consultation database were also notified together with local councillors and parish councils. The draft report was also taken to the council's Planning and Economic Scrutiny panel and Cabinet. Comments were responded to by the council and amendments were made to the document.</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>Draft Sustainability Scoping Report: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/draft-sustainability-appraisal-scoping-report.pdf</p> <p>Summary of comments received with council's response and amendments made: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/sustainability-appraisal-consultation.pdf</p>

Stage 2 – Issues and Options (Regulation 25 consultation)

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
Have the “specific consultation bodies” been consulted – or are there any of these bodies which, because of the nature of this DPD, do not need to be consulted at this stage?	Regulation 25(1)(a) [Specific Consultation Bodies are defined in Regulation 1]	<p>All specific consultation bodies have been consulted. These are listed in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – appendix A</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>Statement of Community Involvement (December 2006): http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/adopted-sci-dec2006.pdf</p> <p>Our Place in the Future Consultation Methodology and Output report</p>
Have the “general consultation bodies” been identified and consulted - and are those bodies consulted consistent with the approach set out in the adopted	Regulation 25(1)(b) [General Consultation Bodies are defined in Regulation 1]	<p>General consultation bodies have been consulted in accordance with the approach set out in the SCI. These are listed in appendix A of the SCI.</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>Statement of Community Involvement (December 2006): http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/adopted-sci-</p>

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
SCI?		<p>dec2006.pdf</p> <p>Our Place in the Future Consultation Methodology and Output report</p>
Does the consultation contribute to the development and sustainability appraisal of the options?	The Act s19(5)	<p>Consultation on the Issues and Options Report and Issues and Options Interim Sustainability Appraisal was carried out between July and October 2006. The interim Sustainability Appraisal set out a range of options and tested these against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. The consultation methodology is currently being produced and summaries the representations made and the council's response to these.</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>Our Place in the future – Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation report: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/our-place-consultation-doc-2.pdf and http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/our-place-questionnaire.pdf</p> <p>Interim Sustainability Report: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/ourplace-interim-sustainability.pdf</p> <p>Topic Papers and evidence base: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/planning/forward-planning/local-development-framework/core-strategy/ourplace/ourplace-evidence.htm</p>
Are you keeping a record of the bodies being consulted; how they are being consulted, and the main issues they have raised?	Regulation 28(1)(c)	<p>The Consultation methodology and output report is currently being produced and sets out which bodies were consulted and how this was undertaken, which was in accordance with the council's SCI. This report alongside the addendum topic papers responds to the consultation responses and other evidence gathered during the consultation in order to inform the preferred options. Records of all representations that have been made are kept both on file and electronically on a council's tailor-made database.</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>Salisbury and South Wiltshire: Our Place in the future consultation methodology and output report.</p> <p>Topic Papers and evidence base: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/planning/forward-planning/local-development-framework/core-strategy/ourplace/ourplace-evidence.htm</p>

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
		<p>strategy/ourplace/ourplace-evidence.htm</p> <p>Addendum Topic papers</p> <p>Councils database of consultation responses</p>
<p>Are you developing a framework for monitoring the effects of the DPD?</p>	<p>Regulation 17 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 specifies the requirements for monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of plans</p>	<p>At the Issues and Options stage, monitoring frameworks were not in place, however frameworks are being developed during the preferred options stage.</p> <p>A comprehensive suite of performance indicators and targets will be developed to help inform the monitoring process and will provide the basis for the AMR. These will integrate with regional and national indicators and targets, applying more localised indicators and targets as appropriate. If national and regional guidance indicators change then the monitoring framework will be amended to adjust to the new indicators. These proposed performance indicators are set out in the Preferred Options.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy will reveal any significant environmental effects, which are likely to arise due to the implementation of the plan. If any do arise, alternative policies and mitigation measures will be put in place to ensure the plan is as sustainable as possible.</p> <p>The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be the main mechanism through which policies in the Local Development Documents will be monitored. Once the Core Strategy is adopted the policies within it will be monitored each year as will the progress of the overall LDS.</p> <p>Overall the AMR will monitor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress in preparing LDDs compared with the milestones set out in the LDS, and what changes to the scheme may be needed; - The extent to which policies and related targets in LDDs are achieving their intended purposes and where policies may need to be reviewed. <p>The AMR 2006/2007 presented data in response to the National Core Output Indicators set out in 'Local Development framework monitoring: a good practice guide (ODPM, 2005).' It is anticipated that each AMR will include indicators and targets relating to LDF documents as and when they reach submission stage.</p> <p>Evidence:</p>

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
		Salisbury District Council Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation draft (February 2008) Salisbury District Council Annual Monitoring Report 2006/2007: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/amr-2007.pdf
Have you arranged to send to the Government Office copies of documents used in consultation?	Not statutory, but will assist the later stages, where the Secretary of State has a statutory role	Copies of the Issues and Options Report and all supporting documents and a letter were sent to GOSW in July 2007. There is ongoing dialogue and regular meetings and emails with GOSW.

Stage 3 – Preferred Options (Regulation 26 Consultation)

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
Is the DPD being prepared in accordance with the LDS?	The Act s19(1)	The Core Strategy was identified in the first LDS under which work for the Core Strategy Issues and Options commenced. Due to team reorganisation a revised LDS was produced in June 2007. This LDS extended the timetable for the production of the Core Strategy and the Preferred Options is now in accordance with this. The LDS also sets out the role of the Core Strategy and the Preferred Options is in accordance with this. Evidence: Salisbury District Council Local Development Scheme (June 2007): http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/ldf-full-lds.pdf Salisbury District Council Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation draft (February 2008) Counsel Opinion has been sought from Landmark Chambers and this will continue through each stage.
Have you assessed the preferred options against - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistency with national policy?• General conformity with the RSS?• Conformity with the core strategy DPD or old policy (unless the	The Act s19(2), s24 and Schedule 8 Regulation 13(6)	The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report makes regular reference and links to national and regional policy. This guidance has been used to inform the policies and approaches in the Core Strategy although it has been ensured that the document remains spatially distinctive to Salisbury and South Wiltshire by dividing it into district wide policies and area specific policies. The preferred options also set out spatial

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
<p>DPD will supersede the old policy)?</p>		<p>objectives, which were developed alongside national and regional policy and guidance. These were used to inform the policies contained within the Core Strategy Preferred Options.</p> <p>There has also been close working with GOSW and advice from them has been used to inform the Preferred Options.</p> <p>A report detailing links between the Preferred Options and key National and Regional guidance has been produced and will be available during the consultation. This report details specifically how the preferred options meets guidance and advice from the government and details the methodology used in producing the preferred options.</p> <p>Counsel Opinion has been sought from Landmark Chambers and this will continue through each stage.</p>
<p>Are you having regard to adjoining RSS's (as appropriate)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>The Act s19(2) Regulation 15(1)(g)</p>	<p>Yes including the South East (New Forest) and the South Coast.</p>
<p>Are you having regard to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community strategy of the authority? • Any other LDD adopted by the authority? 	<p>PCPA 2004 s.19(2)</p>	<p>In preparing the Preferred Options, the Community Strategy for the district was used to inform policies particularly in formulating the Core Strategy Vision and in the area specific policies. Regard has been had to the Community Strategy throughout the production of the Core Strategy and this can be seen through the topic papers, which inform the Core Strategy.</p> <p>A multi-disciplinary team has been set up including community initiatives, service head unit and community plans lead officer. There is also regular reporting to the South West Strategic Alliance executive board of progress.</p> <p>The Council have not yet commenced any other LDD's.</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>Salisbury District Council Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation draft (February 2008)</p> <p>Topic Papers: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/planning/forward-planning/local-development-framework/core-strategy/ourplace/ourplace-</p>

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
		evidence.htm#evidence-topic
<p>Are you having regard to the other matters and strategies relating to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources? • The RDA's Regional Economic Strategy? • Infrastructure provision and any transport plan? • Utilities infrastructure? • Integration of transport and land use policies? • Waste strategies? • Hazardous substances and accidents? • Climate change? • Air quality strategy? 	<p>The Act s19(2) Regulation 15</p> <p>Note: This listing is derived from Annex B of PPS12 and therefore refers to more than the matters specifically listed in the Act and Regulation 15.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy Preferred Options report indicates that the issues identified were taken into account in developing the document.</p> <p>A separate accompanying report to the Preferred Options details how national, regional and local policy context have been taken account of. Furthermore the accompanying topic papers and topic paper addendums detail how a range of plans, strategies and guidance have been taken account of when preparing the Core Strategy.</p> <p>RSS matters are referred to throughout the Core Strategy and in the accompanying topic papers.</p> <p>The Preferred Options has had regard to the Transport Plan, and it contains a separate section on Transport. There is also an accompanying topic paper on transport and how it relates to land use planning produced by the Joint Transportation team.</p> <p>Infrastructure is also addressed in the Preferred Options and is seen as a key component to any future development.</p> <p>Waste is identified as an issue in the Preferred Options and there is an option specifically relating to this issue. There is an accompanying topic paper on Waste and Pollution, which provides more context to the detail in the Preferred Options.</p> <p>There is a specific section within the Preferred Options, which addresses Climate Change, and the government's aims are stated here with an option of how this issue can be addressed. There is also a separate topic paper on climate change, which sets out national and regional guidance and the implications of this issue at the local level, which was used to inform the Preferred Options.</p> <p>The preferred options addresses air quality throughout the waste and pollution section. Air quality and air quality management zones are more specifically detailed in the Transport topic paper.</p> <p>A Consultative Technical Group as been set up to scope and inform us at key stages in the production of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>All topic papers addressing the above issues</p>

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
		<p>have had regard to the full range of national, regional and local guidance as well as other local strategies and plans and this is fully described in the specific topic papers and policies in the Preferred Options and accompanying text.</p>
<p>Have you undertaken the necessary sustainability appraisal of alternatives in arriving at the preferred options?</p>	<p>The Act s19(5)</p>	<p>The Issues and Options consultation document was accompanied by the Interim Sustainability Appraisal. This assessed the policy options put forward for consultation as part of the Issues and Options document. Using this, the consultation responses and evidence gathered during the consultation, the preferred options were selected.</p> <p>A further Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out on the Preferred Options and rejected options to demonstrate their relative sustainability. This report will be published alongside the Preferred Options report. An appropriate assessment will also be produced.</p> <p>Evidence: Interim Sustainability Appraisal: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/ourplace-interim-sustainability.pdf</p>
<p>Have you prepared the Sustainability Report?</p>	<p>The Act s19(5)</p>	<p>The interim Sustainability Appraisal of the Issues and Options Core Strategy was produced as part of the consultation from July – October 2006 and assessed the options within the document. A Sustainability Appraisal to accompany the Preferred Options was then produced for consultation. This document contains an explanation of the policy situation, an appraisal of preferred options and the rejected options with reasons for this rejection.</p> <p>Evidence: Interim Sustainability Appraisal: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/ourplace-interim-sustainability.pdf</p>
<p>Have you screened the plan options for likely significant effects on European Wildlife (Natura 2000) sites?</p>	<p>Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 [forthcoming Regulation 85B]</p>	<p>The plan options have been screened. Refer to the Appropriate Assessment, which accompanies the Preferred Options document for details and therefore is in accordance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Evidence: Interim Appropriate Assessment: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/interim-appropriate-assessment-statement.pdf</p>

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
If necessary (see above) have you made an Appropriate Assessment of the plan options in Habitats terms?	Draft Habitats Regulations no 85B Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 [forthcoming Regulation 85B]	<p>An Appropriate Assessment has been carried out of the Preferred Options document.</p> <p>Evidence: Appropriate Assessment of Preferred Options (February 2008)</p>
Have you set out clear reasons for the preferred options and a précis of the alternatives and why they were rejected?	Regulation 13(1)	<p>For each Option within the Preferred Options there is a reasoned justification for taking it forward including supporting evidence and accordance with national and regional guidance, and other local strategies and plans. Rejected options are contained within the Sustainability Appraisal with a justification of why these options have not been carried forward. The supporting Topic Papers also contain a reasoned justification of the options to be carried forward and those, which have been left out and provide a detailed audit trail.</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>Salisbury District Council Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation draft (February 2008)</p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal of Preferred Options (February 2008)</p> <p>Topic Papers and Topic Paper Addendums: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/planning/forward-planning/local-development-framework/core-strategy/ourplace/ourplace-evidence.htm</p>
Are you ready to seek participation on the preferred options and consult on the sustainability report, including any findings on Appropriate Assessment?	Regulation 26	<p>Members support for the consultation on the Preferred Options document was sought by Cabinet on 17th January 2008. It was resolved that the Preferred Options be authorised for public consultation for a period of 6 weeks, with a report back to Cabinet in due course outlining the outcomes of the consultation and giving members final say over the preferred options to be taken forward as well as detailing the next steps in the Core Strategy process. Furthermore related to the LDF, it was resolved that the continuation of the production of the LDF be endorsed as per the adopted timetable in the LDS, which has been agreed with the Government.</p> <p>The Preferred Options have been produced and, alongside the Sustainability Appraisal</p>

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
		<p>and Appropriate Assessment, they are ready to be consulted on in accordance with the Councils adopted Statement of Community Involvement and Regulation 26.</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>Salisbury District Council Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation draft (February 2008)</p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal of Preferred Options (February 2008)</p> <p>Appropriate Assessment of Preferred Options (February 2008)</p> <p>Topic Papers and Topic Paper Addendums: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/planning/forward-planning/local-development-framework/core-strategy/ourplace/ourplace-evidence.htm</p>
<p>Have you prepared a housing trajectory (where relevant to the DPD being prepared)?</p>	<p>Non-statutory, although Regulation 48 requires information on net additional dwellings to be given in the AMR. See PPS12 paras 4.25 and 4.48</p>	<p>A Housing Trajectory has been produced and is included in this years AMR (2006/2007). There is a section within the Preferred Options specifically covering Housing and at the Submission Stage a Housing Trajectory will be included, as time is needed to add more information to the current one in the AMR. A separate housing topic paper also backs up the Preferred Options housing section.</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>Salisbury District Council Annual Monitoring Report (2006/2007): http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/amr-2007.pdf</p> <p>Salisbury District Council Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation draft (February 2008)</p> <p>Housing Topic Paper and Addendum Topic paper: http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/topic2-housing.pdf</p>
<p>Where sites are to be identified or areas for the application of policy, are you preparing sufficient illustrative material to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable you to amend the currently adopted 	<p>Regulation 9</p>	<p>The Core Strategy key diagrams shows the main villages and settlements with the location of proposed key development areas for housing and employment.</p>

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
<p>proposals map?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform the community about the location of proposals? 		
<p>Have you made copies of the “pre-submission proposals documents” and a statement of the “proposals matters” available for inspection?</p>	<p>Regulation 26(a)</p> <p>Regulation 27 allows anyone to make representations and specifies a period of six weeks.</p> <p>The LPA must consider all representations received (see Regulation 27(3)).</p>	<p>This stage has not been reached yet. When it is, these documents will be made available for inspection in local libraries, council offices and on the website for a period of 6 weeks. Notices of this availability will also be placed in local newspapers.</p>
<p>Have you published the pre-submission proposals documents, proposals matters and a statement that the documents are available for inspection (at specified places and times) on the website?</p>	<p>Regulation 26(b)</p> <p>Regulation 24 gives definitions and Regulation 27 facilitates representations (see above)</p>	<p>This stage has not been reached yet. When it is, the documents and a statement that the documents are available for inspection will be placed on the Council’s website www.salisbury.gov.uk. This will show the documents themselves and a list of places where the information can be found.</p>
<p>Have you sent to the “DPD bodies” (i.e. all those you consulted at the Regulation 25 stage)-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposals for the DPD? Supporting documents that are relevant to the body? Notice of proposals matters? A statement that the documents are available for inspection (at specified places and times)? 	<p>Regulation 26 (c)</p> <p>Regulation 24 gives definitions and Regulation 27 facilitates representations (see above)</p>	<p>All Statutory bodies will be sent letters along with a notice of proposal matters, the Preferred Options summary and sustainability report summary. All other consultees will be sent a letter and Preferred Options summary leaflet and a letter explaining when, where and how the documents would be available for inspection. The Statement of Community Involvement identifies both statutory and non-statutory consultees consulted at the preferred options stage.</p>
<p>Have you advertised in a local paper giving notice of the proposals matters and where and when the pre-submission proposals documents can be</p>	<p>Regulation 26(d)</p> <p>Regulation 24 gives definitions and Regulation 27 facilitates</p>	<p>This stage has not been reached yet. When it is, notices will be given in local papers including where and when the documents can be inspected.</p>

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Comment
inspected?	representations	
Do the participation arrangements comply with the SCI?	The Act s19(3)	<p>All participation arrangements so far have been fully compliant with the Councils Statement of Community Involvement in in fact much of the consultation thus far has exceeded the SCI. The SCI sets out how people and organisations are to be involved in the planning process and how and at what stages they will be consulted. Any subsequent participation will also be in accordance with the SCI.</p> <p>Evidence: Our Place in the Future Methodology and Output consultation report</p>
Have you sent the Government Office and the Planning Inspectorate copies of the proposals for the DPD and supporting documents?	Not statutory	GOSW have been sent all documents accompanying the Preferred Options Core Strategy including evidence such as topic paper addendums, Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment. This will continue to be sent as it evolves – iterative process.
Are you keeping a record of the number of representations made and the issues raised?	Regulation 28(1)(d)	<p>Consultation responses for the Core Strategy Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal will be recorded as they are received and kept on both file and electronically on a database. This is in accordance with the SCI. This information will then be used to show evidence of the number of representations made, the main issues raised and how they have been addressed and subsequent changes have been made in producing the Submission Draft of the Preferred Options.</p>

Stage 4 - Submission

2.2 This stage covers the period of considering the results of the public consultation on the preferred options and the SA report. The final form and content of the Core Strategy for submission is also decided upon.

2.3 The Council will provide a further update using the soundness self-assessment toolkit at the end of that stage to demonstrate how it has met these procedural requirements.

Stage 5 – Post submission

2.4 This stage covers the period between the submission of the documents to the Secretary of State and the opening of the first hearing session of the examination. Essentially it is concerned with receiving and considering representations, and preparing for the hearing part of the examination.

2.5 The council will provide a further update using the soundness self-assessment toolkit at the end of that stage to demonstrate how it has met these procedural requirements.

3. Soundness

3.1 This section sets out the view of the council that the Core Strategy is sound in terms of the statutory provisions and guidance. PPS 12 indicates that soundness should be judged through 9 tests. This section addresses each of the soundness tests in turn and sets out the council's evidence.

Test 1

Soundness Test 1	
KEY QUESTION	EVIDENCE PROVIDED
Is has been prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme	<p>The Core Strategy was identified in the first LDS under which work for the Core Strategy Issues and Options commenced. Due to team reorganisation a revised LDS was produced in June 2007. This LDS extended the timetable for the production of the Core Strategy and current work is now in accordance with this.</p> <p>The LDS (2007) sets out individual profiles/project plans for each DPD. It states that the role of the Core Strategy is to set out the Councils vision and key principles for development in the district as a whole. It will aim to balance the competing environmental, social and economic pressures by prescribing s sustainable strategy for the future development of the district and where it envisages that development will be focussed. It will also include a key diagram to show a clear spatial plan of the key elements and will set out core policies. This has all been conveyed though all stages in the production of the Core Strategy thus far.</p>

Test 2

Soundness Test 2	
KEY QUESTION	EVIDENCE PROVIDED
It has been prepared in compliance with the statement of community involvement.	<p>Consultation and community engagement has been carried out in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement. It requires a minimum period of 6 weeks for consultation. The Issues and Options was consulted on for a period of 10 weeks due to the summer holidays. The preferred options will be consulted on for 6 weeks. The SCI also requires Statutory Consultees and other consultees who the council considers has an interest in the subject matter to be notified – this has occurred with over 1000 people being directly notified including all Councilors and Parish Councils. As required by the SCI, the main document and all supporting documents have been made available for inspection at the council offices, website and other appropriate locations including libraries.</p>

Test 3

Soundness Test 3	
KEY QUESTION	EVIDENCE PROVIDED
The plan and its policies	Each stage of the preparation of the Core Strategy DPD this far has been

<p>have be subjected to sustainability appraisal</p>	<p>subject to SA. The Issues and Options Interim Sustainability Report was published in July 2007. At Preferred Options a revised SA was produced in February 2008. A final SA Report will be prepared and submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the Core Strategy DPD in accordance with the timetable set out in the LDS (2007).</p> <p>Although not a formal requirement at each stage, guidance in the Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents from central government recommends that each stage of the preparation of Development Plan Documents are complimented by a sustainability appraisal. This will ensure that the final sustainability appraisal for each DPD is comprehensive and robust enough for consultation and examination.</p>
--	---

Test 4

Soundness Test 4	
KEY QUESTION	EVIDENCE PROVIDED
<p>It is a spatial plan which is consistent with national planning policy and in general conformity with the RSS for the region and has properly had regard to any other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the area.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy is a spatial plan, which sets out the broad visions, objectives and spatial development strategy to be achieved via the strategic policies. The DPD makes regular reference to national and regional policy guidance throughout. The Preferred Options is also accompanied by a technical paper setting out how it accords with national and regional guidance.</p> <p>The Core Strategy DPD has taken into account many other plans and strategies during its production including key national and regional guidance and is therefore considered to be consistent with this guidance. Regard has also been had to a wide range of guidance and plans including the Wiltshire Structure Plan. The Country has also responded to each consultation stage of the Core Strategy and these comments have been taken into account and changes carried out as required.</p> <p>A number of policies at Preferred Options stage have been amended and reviewed to take latest Government policy and guidance and recommendations made by GOSW into account. Each stage in the production of the Core Strategy is supported by a range of topic papers setting out the evidence for including policies in the document and a justification of those that have been omitted.</p>

Test 5

KEY QUESTION	EVIDENCE PROVIDED
<p>Has it had regard to the Community Strategy?</p>	<p>In producing the Core Strategy, regard has been had to the Councils Community Strategy and the Vision in the Core Strategy reflects the Community Strategy aspirations. Regard has also been had to the Community Strategy in the area specific policies section in the Preferred Options document. The overall themes contained within the Core Strategy reflect the vision and strategic objectives of the Councils Community Strategy.</p> <p>During the Issues and Options consultation, the Community Strategy was also consulted upon and the results will be used to revise it.</p>

KEY QUESTION	EVIDENCE PROVIDED
	There has also been regular reporting to the South West Executive Board.

Test 6

Soundness Test 6	
KEY QUESTION	EVIDENCE PROVIDED
The strategies/policies/allocations in the plan are coherent and consistent within and between development plan documents prepared by the authority.	<p>The Core Strategy DPD links policies to objectives to provide a coherent link between the spatial vision and spatial objectives.</p> <p>The themes embody the aims of higher-level strategies, including the Government's guiding principles of sustainable development, the RSS and the Community Strategy. The Key Diagram in the Core Strategy DPD also provides the means to show links and relationships with other strategies.</p> <p>DPDs dealing with site allocation will follow on from, and be informed by, the Core Strategy.</p> <p>The Core Strategy DPD Policies aims and objectives were also appraised against Sustainability Appraisal objectives and this also identified that there were no instances where these spatial objectives were incompatible with the LDF's Sustainability Appraisal objectives.</p> <p>Amendments will continue to be made to the document in light of the Preferred Options consultation responses and advice from GOSW.</p>

Test 7

Soundness Test 7	
KEY QUESTION	EVIDENCE PROVIDED
The strategies/policies/allocations represent the most appropriate in all the circumstances, having considered the relevant alternatives, and they are founded on a robust and credible evidence base.	<p>Sustainability Appraisals carried out at each stage shows how the Council has considered the relevant options and alternatives with a justification for this.</p> <p>In the Core Strategy DPD the overall vision, objectives and strategy for development draw upon the evidence base, the District profile and the national, regional and local policy context. The accompanying topic papers set out the evidence base to inform the options contained within the Core Strategy along with key background studies (Retail and Leisure needs study, Open Space Audit, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment), and together these provide a clear audit trail.</p> <p>All documents accompanying the Core Strategy have been carried out in accordance with Government Guidance and in consultation with various bodies/organisations where appropriate.</p>

Test 8

Soundness Test 8	
KEY QUESTION	EVIDENCE PROVIDED
There are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring.	<p>At the Issues and Options stage, monitoring frameworks were not in place, however frameworks are being developed during the preferred options stage.</p> <p>A comprehensive suite of performance indicators and targets will be developed to help inform the monitoring process and will provide the basis for the AMR. These will integrate with regional and national indicators and targets, applying more localised indicators and targets as appropriate. If national and regional guidance indicators change then the monitoring framework will be amended to adjust to the new indicators. These proposed performance indicators are set out in the Preferred Options.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy will reveal any significant environmental effects, which are likely to arise due to the implementation of the plan. If any do arise, alternative policies and mitigation measures will be put in place to ensure the plan is as sustainable as possible.</p> <p>The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be the main mechanism through which policies in the Local Development Documents will be monitored. Once the Core Strategy is adopted the policies within it will be monitored each year as will the progress of the overall LDS.</p> <p>Overall the AMR will monitor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress in preparing LDDs compared with the milestones set out in the LDS, and what changes to the scheme may be needed; - The extent to which policies and related targets in LDDs are achieving their intended purposes and where policies may need to be reviewed. <p>The AMR 2006/2007 presented data in response to the National Core Output Indicators set out in 'Local Development framework monitoring: a good practice guide (ODPM, 2005).' It is anticipated that each AMR will include indicators and targets relating to LDF documents as and when they reach submission stage.</p>

Test 9

Soundness Test 9	
KEY QUESTION	EVIDENCE PROVIDED
The plan is reasonably flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances	<p>The Core Strategy DPD has been designed to provide a flexible policy framework. The Core Strategy sets out a strategic framework for the LDF, giving a local dimension to reflect the development needs of Salisbury and South Wiltshire.</p> <p>The AMR provides mechanisms to monitor the delivery of the DPDs and will assess whether reviews are necessary in case of changes or circumstances.</p>



Salisbury District Council
Planning Office, 61 Wyndham Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3AH.

tel: 01722 434362

fax: 01722 434247

email: forwardplanning@salisbury.gov.uk

web: www.salisbury.gov.uk



Printed on paper containing 80% post consumer waste. This information can be made available in other formats, upon request.

We try to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate at the time of going to press and while every effort has been made to ensure accuracy Salisbury District Council cannot guarantee it and does not accept any liability for any error or omission.