Publication Core Strategy

Consultation Statement

Statement of Stakeholder and Community Involvement

www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning

June 2012
Introduction

This document is prepared in accordance with Regulation 22 (c) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012; Statutory Instrument 2012 No.767 requiring the preparation of a statement setting out:

(i) which bodies and persons the local planning authority invited to make representations under regulation 18,
(ii) how these bodies and persons were invited to make representation under regulation 18,
(iii) a summary of the main issues raised by the representations made pursuant to regulation 18,
(iv) how any representations made pursuant to regulation 18 have been taken into account

The following table details the consultation activity undertaken in the preparation of the Core Strategy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2005</td>
<td>Core Strategy objectives agreed following engagement with stakeholders and interested parties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2006</td>
<td>Workshop held to discuss emerging spatial options for the Borough.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 May to 16 June 2006</td>
<td>Consultation on four spatial options for Rotherham via an online questionnaire.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2006</td>
<td>Feedback of Core Strategy Issues and Options: Consultation Statement Summary Consultation Statement Supplementary Report: Literal Responses to the Questionnaire Supplementary Report: Notes of all Meetings / Workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2007</td>
<td>Opened invitation to suggest potential development sites for allocation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 February to 23 March 2007</td>
<td>Major consultation on Core Strategy Preferred Options (Jan 2007) and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal report.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2007</td>
<td>Feedback of Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation September 2007: Annex 1 Summary of Responses and the Council’s Appraisal Annex 2 Community / Interest Group Meeting Notes and the Council’s Appraisal Annex 3 Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Responses and the Council’s Appraisals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 November 2007</td>
<td>Workshop held with interested parties to discuss and agree methodology for site allocations surveys.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2008</td>
<td>Closed initial invitation to suggest potential development sites for allocation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 May to 31 August 2009</td>
<td>Major consultation on Core Strategy Revised Options (May 2009) including potential urban extensions and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 May 2009 to June</td>
<td>Invitation to suggest potential development sites for allocation.</td>
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### Core Strategy Consultation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 2009</td>
<td>Core Strategy Revised Options Interim Feedback Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td>Core Strategy Revised Options Final Feedback Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 July to 16 September 2011</td>
<td>Major consultation on the Draft Core Strategy (June 2011) including broad locations for growth, potential urban extensions, strategic policies and accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2012</td>
<td>Draft Core Strategy Feedback Report</td>
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</table>

A Statement of Community Involvement to guide the consultation process was adopted following examination by an independently appointed planning inspector, in June 2006.

All information on previous consultation activities and the accompanying Feedback Reports is available to download from the web site:

[www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning)

### South Yorkshire Settlement Study 2005

Prior to work commencing on the preparation of the Core Strategy planning consultants Jacobs Babtie undertook the South Yorkshire Settlement Study and provided an evidence base on the sustainability and function of settlements throughout the Borough. This evidence base was used by the South Yorkshire local authorities to inform the emerging Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

The RSS identified Rotherham Urban Area and Dinnington as main areas of growth with Rotherham as a Core Urban Area and Dinnington as a Principal Town. However, the South Yorkshire Settlement Study had indicated that the wider Rotherham Borough also contained a number of other settlements that were potentially equally suitable as ‘Principal Settlements’. There was also recognition that within the South Yorkshire former coalfield areas there is a dispersed settlement pattern and there are a number: Wath (north), Dinnington (south), Maltby (east) settlements that serve a wider hinterland and act as a focus for social and community infrastructure including public transport hubs in their localities.

### Preparatory Work on Core Strategy | Issues and Options 2005

During the latter half of 2005, the Council prepared 30 strategic objectives that the emerging spatial vision should use as the basis for its policies. These objectives were sent to 100 people who had indicated that they were interested in the early development of the Council’s development plan. This group of people were known as “front loaders”. The people and agencies consulted early in the process included Government agencies, key officers within the Council, planning consultants, developers and their

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1 The Yorkshire and Humber Plan, 2008:
agents if they had expressed an interest in being involved at the early stages of Plan preparation, Parish Councils in the Borough and key local groups. Consultation was targeted to the “general” and “specific” consultation bodies as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (No.2204) in part 1 General Regulation 2 Interpretation.

A workshop was held on 17th February 2006 to discuss the strategic objectives, emerging options and the sustainability appraisal with representatives from this group. Annex 1 includes an invitation to the front loaders to attend the stakeholder workshop and a note of the stakeholder event.

Rotherham LDF | Core Strategy | Issues and Options | 2006 - Consultation

The Issues and Options 2006 consultation documents and Feedback Reports are available to download from the Council’s web site.

The Council consulted on four spatial options, the 30 strategic objectives and their sustainability appraisal via online questionnaire between May and June 2006.

The Options:
A. responding to market forces – based on the minimum actions to achieve the best development and reduce activities that will harm the environment
B. matching needs with opportunities – to ensure balanced development through partnerships with the Council, developers and other public agencies
C. managing the environment as a key resource – support development whilst protecting the natural environment, dealing with climate change and contributing to “global well-being” – reducing the impact of development on the earth.
D. Unitary Development Plan – current position

In-house Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken of each of the Options.

We undertook 10 workshops within the Borough’s 7 Area Assembly areas with invites to community representatives, including tenants and residents associations and parish councils. We also carried out detailed focus group discussions with communities of interest: people with disabilities, the biodiversity and natural environment forum; ethnic minorities via the Rotherham Ethnic Minorities Alliance and Rotherham Chamber. Presentations were also undertaken to the Community Strategy Theme Boards.

All Borough Councillors and Parish Councils received notification of the consultation along with Government agencies, and key officers within the Council. Planning consultants, developers and their agents were notified via email where they had expressed an interest in being involved in the early stages of Plan preparation.

Information was made available to all interested parties via the Forward Planning web pages and briefings provided to local libraries regarding the on-line questionnaire and the dates of the consultation. The briefing note is attached to this Report. 400 hard copies of the questionnaire were printed and circulated to various groups and individuals, 197 questionnaires were completed.

The following Feedback Reports were prepared:
- Consultation Statement Summary (July 2006);
- Consultation Statement (July 2006)
• Supplementary Report (July 2006): Literal Responses to the Questionnaire
• Supplementary Report (July 2006): Notes of all Meetings / Workshops

All Feedback Reports are available to download from the Forward Planning web pages. **Annex 2** includes a Briefing Paper presented to elected Members of the Local Development Framework Steering Group May 2006. The Local Development Framework Steering Group is an officer / Council Member working party established to share information and discuss ideas prior to formal ratification through the Cabinet system. The Briefing Note outlines the proposed activities at that time. Also within this annex is a list of community workshops held and the memorandum circulated to all librarians in the Borough informing them of the Local Development Framework consultation activity.

**Rotherham LDF | Core Strategy Preferred Options | January 2007**

The Council consulted on its Core Strategy Preferred Options document between 5 February and 23 March 2007.

Section 6 of the Core Strategy Preferred Options document summarises the outcome of the previous consultation undertaken in 2006, and the selection of a hybrid Preferred Option, chiefly developed around respondents’ choices from both Options B and C, this was further developed under 9 strategic policy directions. The selection of the preferred option has also been guided by the Sustainability Appraisal.

At that time the Rotherham Local Development Framework along with the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy and national planning policy guidance was intended to form a comprehensive framework to guide strategic planning in Rotherham. The nine strategic policy directions prepared for the Preferred Options, were intended to provide a complete topic umbrella which would be supplemented by a Policies Development Plan Document and an Allocations DPD; it was also envisaged at that time that there would be a number of other Area Action Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents to guide future development of an area or to provide additional guidance around an issue.

It is clear from this Preferred Options Development Plan Document that the Council was taking into consideration the results from the on-line questionnaire undertaken in 2006; each policy direction includes a summary section on the outcomes of the earlier consultation relating to that theme. In addition to the Core Strategy Preferred Options DPD an 8 page A4 leaflet was prepared that summarised the earlier issues and options consultation before leading into the proposed Key Diagram that identified the likely spread of possible development under the preferred option and a summary of the draft policy directions.

The Consultation and Community Engagement Programme of Activities involved communities of interest and area specific communities; a mail shot was sent to the 2,300 people on the Council’s Local Development Framework database including the general and specific consultation bodies seeking their views. Details are provided in the published Feedback Report and appendices:

• Feedback of Consultation September 2007
• Annex 1 Summary of Responses and the Council’s Appraisal
• Annex 2 Community / Interest Group Meeting Notes and the Council’s Appraisal
Copies of the Core Strategy Preferred Options DPD, the Sustainability Appraisal, the leaflet, statement of the proposals and a response form were all made available on the [www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning) web page.

Copies of all documents were made available on CD on request. Statutory press adverts were placed in The Star (daily newspaper); and the weeklies Rotherham Advertiser, South Yorkshire Times and Dinnington and Maltby Guardian. Press releases were prepared and circulated to the weekly press: Rotherham Advertiser, South Yorkshire Times and Dinnington and Maltby Guardian and to The Star and press interviews were undertaken with the Rotherham Advertiser.

Distribution of one complete set each of 50 summary leaflets, 10 response forms, 3 Core Strategies Preferred Options, the Sustainability Appraisal, 2 Executive Summaries of the Sustainability appraisal and 3 statement of proposals were sent to 18 libraries and the two Customer Service Centres at Civic Building, Walker Place Rotherham, and Swinton Customer Service Centre and at the reception of Bailey House, Rotherham.

25 leaflets were made available at the Town Hall.

The 7 Area Assembly networks received 10 response forms, 2 Core strategy Preferred Options, 1 Sustainability Appraisal plus 1 Executive Summary of the sustainability appraisal and 2 Statement of Proposals plus an initial 50 summary leaflets of the proposals and any subsequent leaflets supplied as requested.

All Borough Councillors and Parish Councils received a full package of the information.

Nine workshops were undertaken in the 7 Area Assembly areas and workshops were also held with communities of interest including people with disabilities, SPEAKUP, the biodiversity and natural environment forum, black and minority ethnic communities, Rotherham Chamber, Youth Cabinet and a specialist Council officer group set up to discuss sustainability and environmental issues. Presentations were also made to the Local Strategic Partnership Theme Boards and sub – groups and the Parish Liaison Meeting and Network event.

Over 100 organisations, groups and individuals responded to the Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation raising 640 specific points. The Feedback of Consultation was published in September 2007. The Summary Feedback Report details the key messages arising from the consultation; the appendices provide details of all representations received and the Council’s response to them; the notes of all workshops with area and communities of interest and the Council’s appraisal and in appendix 3 a summary of the sustainability appraisal responses and the Council’s appraisal.

The Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken by Arup’s.

Policy Direction (PD)2 Housing of the Core Strategy Preferred Options aimed to meet the draft RSS target of that time, this required that a total of 19,350 new dwellings be built between 2004 and 2026 and reflected representations made to the RSS examination in public by the South Yorkshire Local Planning Authorities. The draft RSS
required that 65% of the housing requirement be developed on previously developed land. The Council’s policy direction however recognised that to achieve this housing target, there may be a requirement to release what is currently Green Belt land. The Council also raised the possibility of identifying urban extensions at Rotherham, Maltby, Dinnington and Wath. This was the first time that consideration was given to the need to release Green Belt land.

The Summary Feedback Report includes main messages arising from the consultation and this has been guided the subsequent preparation of the Core Strategy and its accompanying policies. **Annex 3** includes the Statement of the Public Consultation Procedure / Proposed Matters and the notification letter to all stakeholders on the Forward Planning database.

In January 2007 the Council invited suggestions for sites to be considered for allocation in a subsequent Allocations Development Plan Document.

### 2008 Sustainability Assessment of Sites Commences

A detailed sustainability assessment of sites including potential constraints to be overcome and settlement capacity was undertaken throughout the Borough. Rotherham worked with consultants Jacobs to prepare a database to assess and record potential employment and housing sites across the Borough. Combined with other work, this led to a series of settlement ‘capacity’ reports for each settlement or spatial combination of settlements. At this point, options for potential sites began to emerge.

Sites considered during the survey period included those from Housing Market Renewal (HMR) Masterplanning work, the employment land review, larger sites from the Urban Potential Study, remaining Unitary Development Plan allocations, any potential Green Belt sites that were known from the Unitary Development Plan examination in public and sites received as suggestions for potential future allocation.

### Rotherham LDF | Core Strategy Revised Options | May 2009

In 2009 the Council consulted on its Core Strategy Revised Options | May 2009. In the period from 2007 to 2009 there were several significant changes that influence how the Council prepares its Local Development Framework and it was decided to undertake further consultation for the following reasons:

- The Regional Spatial Strategy was adopted May 2008 and included an increased and challenging housing target of 22,285 dwellings to be delivered in the Plan period 2008 to 2026
- July 2008 – South Yorkshire was granted New Growth Point status which increased the housing target by 2,197. Therefore the total number of new homes now needed in Rotherham is 24,482.
- Availability of improved evidence from settlement site surveys setting out the ability of Rotherham’s communities to accommodate new growth.
- A Planning Inspector’s advisory visit indicated there were too many objectives and these needed to be more specific to local issues
- Paragraph 4.26 of the revised PPS 12 Local Spatial Planning (June 2008) provided clear guidance that where there is a major change in circumstances, such as receiving growth point status, it will in the Government’s view be
appropriate to involve the community in considering the options for the strategy before the final document is produced.

The RSS identified Rotherham Urban Area as a greater focus for future growth, and housing targets for Rotherham Borough were increased late in the preparation of the RSS.

The main changes to our approach were:

- objectives were refined from 30 to 17 objectives
- a proposed review of the Green Belt to achieve sustainable development and to identify enough land to meet our housing and employment targets
- more attention is given to community health and safety; greenspace and green infrastructure, sport and recreation; and infrastructure delivery
- more emphasis on climate change (including management of flood risk and carbon reduction).

The consultation focused on which of four Options is best to guide the broad distribution of new development around the Borough. The Revised Options presented an emerging settlement hierarchy and suggested the numbers of potential new dwellings that could be developed in each community and the employment land that could be identified to meet future employment needs in the Borough. The Council did not consult on individual development sites in the borough but the boundaries of the sites that were under consideration for possible future allocation and subsequent development were made available on the Council’s web site and at stakeholder drop-in sessions. The consultation focused on the implications for particular settlements and how they might potentially grow in the future.

Reports on each Settlement Grouping had been presented to Members of the Council over the previous months and these reports had guided the development of the final four Options put forward for consultation purposes. These Reports are available to download.

The four options consulted on are summarised below:

- **Baseline**: Current RSS policy focusing all new development on Rotherham Urban Area and Dinnington but does not include the Urban Extensions at Bassingthorpe Farm or Dinnington. This option does not meet the RSS target for new house building not the employment land target to meet any future growth in population.
- **Option 1**: Rotherham Urban Area + Urban extensions and more principal towns including urban extensions at Bassingthorpe Farm and Dinnington (east and west included in total figures)
- **Option 2**: Development in Rotherham Urban Area, more principal towns and public transport corridors now includes the major urban extension to the east of Wath and significant Green Belt land releases in Swinton/ Kilnhurst; Maltby/ Hellaby; Wales/ Kiveton Park. Not all land would be needed for development purposes.
- **Option 3**: Dispersed Development all sites included in the housing and employment land totals including the larger villages.
The Revised Options clearly promote potential urban extensions in the Borough. The Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken by WSP.

The Consultation and Community Engagement Programme of Activities involved communities of interest and area specific communities; a mail shot to the people on the Council’s Local Development Framework database including the general and specific consultation bodies sought their views. Details are provided in the Interim Feedback Report December 2009 and Final Feedback Report March 2010. Copies of the Core Strategy Revised Options DPD, the Sustainability Appraisal, the statement of the proposals, response form, and the Interim and Final Feedback Reports are available at: www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning

Workshops were held in the 7 Area Assembly areas and with communities of interest including older people’s forum, women, the biodiversity and natural environment forum, black and minority ethnic communities, Rotherham Youth Cabinet, Rotherfed tenants and residents associations. Presentations were also made to the Local Strategic Partnership Achieving Theme Board and a key stakeholder event. A presentation was made to the Parish Liaison meeting.

Public Meetings were held at Bramley Parish Council and Ravenfield Parish Council. Four drop-in sessions, which focussed on the potential urban extension to Rotherham Urban Area located at Bassingthorpe Farm were held at Thornhill Youth Centre, Wingfield School, the High Street Centre, Rawmarsh and Greasbrough Town Hall. These drop-in sessions captured the anonymous views of residents and stakeholders through post it notes and wall charts. Detailed feedback from each of these sessions was included within the Interim Feedback Report (2009).

The Council also held public drop-in sessions to explain the Core Strategy Revised Options to the wider public and other stakeholders. These drop-in sessions were not noted but encouraged people to respond either in writing via a response form or on-line. The public drop-in sessions were held in Rotherham Town Centre, at Dinnington Resource Centre in the south of the borough, at Montgomery Hall, Wath in the north and at Wickersley Community Centre in the east. A list of all events is provided in the Interim Feedback Report 2009.

A Statutory Notice was placed in the Rotherham Advertiser, Dinnington and Worksop Guardian and the South Yorkshire Times. Copies of the Core Strategy Revised Options DPD, Sustainability Appraisal and Appendices and the Non Technical Summary were made available in all libraries and in the Customer Service Centres at Rotherham Civic Building, and at the reception of Bailey House, Rotherham; Maltby and Swinton Customer Service Centres and at Dinnington Neighbourhood Office. The documents were also made available to the 7 Area Assembly offices. Borough Councillors and all Parish Councils were sent copies of the consultation documents. All documentation relating to the consultation were placed on the Forward Planning web page and were available to download.

A number of press releases were made and the Council responded to a number of enquiries from the Press.

Over 6,150 representations were received during the period of consultation 29th May 2009 to 31st July 2009 extended to 31st August 2009. In 2009 the Council moved over to an internet based consultation tool to enable the collation of all comments against a
particular issue. All of the representations received and the Council’s response to them were entered onto the Council’s database and these comments can be viewed via the Council’s consultation portal: http://rotherham.limehouse.co.uk/portal/

The vast majority of the representations received 86% (over 5,300) were made to the revised options questions 11, 12 and specifically question 13, predominantly members of the public made objections to the identification of specific sites for future development. The Council with the support of Yorkshire Planning Aid, had focussed considerable effort on consultation into the proposed urban extension at Bassingthorpe Farm, and held four drop-in sessions in this locality.

**Question 11:**
Please tell us which of the Options you support and why:
- Option 1 – urban extensions and more principal towns
- Option 2 – development in public transport corridors
- Option 3 – dispersed development

**Question 12:**
Do you have any views on the balance of growth between settlements suggested in any of the options? Could it be improved?

**Question 13:**
If you do not support any of the options suggested, please tell us why not. Can you suggest an alternative approach?

The Core Strategy Revised Options Interim Feedback Report was published December 2009 and included a summary of the events held; a summary of the initial feedback; all notes of workshops, public meetings and the drop-in sessions for Bassingthorpe Farm potential extension to Rotherham Urban Area. This Interim Feedback Report also provided a summary of the conformity of the consultation undertaken with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (2006).

The Final Feedback Report was published in March 2010 this Report included a summary of the key planning issues put forward in writing during the consultation period and the key planning issues arising from the workshops / focus groups, public meetings and drop-in sessions held into the Core Strategy including the Bassingthorpe Farm urban extension proposals.

The programme of consultation activities carried out during 2009 attracted considerable criticism from members of the public for not fully consulting the wider public on all possible future development sites that were being considered. The Council’s focus had been on the four strategic options for growth in the Borough not specific site consultations and there was considerable misunderstanding by the general public of the process of consultation in preparing a Local Development Framework and the strategic nature of the Core Strategy. The representations received also focused on the development of land currently designated Green Belt in the Unitary Development Plan.

In the light of the 2009 consultation the Council made the decision to undertake further consultation on its Core Strategy and the Issues and Options stage of the Sites and Policies Development Plan Document. The draft Sites and Policies DPD included all of the sites that are under consideration for possible future development.
In the period from the closure of the Core Strategy Revised Options consultation in September 2009 and the subsequent consultation of the final draft Core Strategy (starting July 2011) the Council undertook considerable work to draft detailed final policies and to determine a settlement hierarchy and spatial growth strategy for inclusion within the Rotherham Core Strategy.

The Borough’s settlements were assessed for their suitability to accept new growth and the settlement hierarchy in strategic policy CS1 reflects the status of settlement groupings and their potential future role to guide the scale of development considered appropriate for each settlement.

To justify and support the approach proposed in the draft Core Strategy 2011, the Council investigated the relative potential of over 650 sites to meet future sustainable development needs. Each site was assessed for its potential capacity, for constraints that could affect suitability and deliverability, the identification of former uses (if any) and the site’s Unitary Development Plan allocation / designation.

This initial sustainability assessment of sites demonstrated limited opportunities to develop on previously developed land. Whilst there is undeveloped and previously developed land available within the built up areas of settlements in the Borough, this is insufficient to meet the identified development targets. The Council has assessed the constraints, availability and deliverability of all brownfield sites in the borough that are of a suitable size (over 0.4 hectare) any sites that are below this threshold that come forward for development in the future will be captured as windfalls in the Council’s monitoring of all housing commitments and completions.

The Council did not promote an explicit brownfield Option as this would not have achieved either the Regional Strategy housing target or the revised target promoted by the Borough Council in its Core strategy of 2011. An explicit brownfield Option is not a viable Option. However the Council was still mindful in its draft policy CS3 ‘Location of New Development’ of the need to prioritise the development of brownfield land. The Council had a Greenfield Moratorium in place from 7th January 2006 to 27th February 2008, following publication of PPG3. Prior to this date the Council insisted on developers preparing PPG3 Paragraph 31 statements to support planning applications on non brownfield sites and this had ensured that development in this period was predominantly on brownfield land thus reducing the availability of previously developed land in this Plan period.

In preparing the earlier reports on Settlement Groupings for the 2009 Revised Options consultation the Council had undertaken a methodical evaluation of each site; paragraph 14.22 of the Sites and Policies Issues and Options DPD (June 2011) provides details of this evaluation process. An assessment of the sensitive planning issues affecting sites were noted on a traffic light system: green sites – no reservations to the site’s future allocation for development; amber sites where the site has minor reservations and there are some sensitive planning issues that will require mitigation and red and pink sites where the site is of a sensitive nature or has major land use policy constraints. The Council was mindful of the likely potential that could be available from the sites considered, for settlements to meet their proposed housing targets.
In 2010 the Council published a refreshed Employment Land Review that looked at all available employment sites and their suitability for future employment generating activities. The Council considered some potential new sites for employment generating activities but was aware that there was a need to allocate further sites to meet the anticipated employment needs of the population. Any other land use requirements that the Council was aware of were also assessed at that time.

In the Sites and Policies Issues and Options DPD (June 2011), the Council included details of all sites surveyed and an initial assessment of the potential suitability of the site for future development taking into account the red, amber green rating of the site. The Council in preparing its Core Strategy evidence base re-assessed these 650 sites and identified those sites that it preferred for potential future development. ‘Preferred’ Sites are those that are the most sustainable or the best sites for development on the current evidence available. This information was made available as evidence base reports or within the schedule of sites in the Sites and Policies DPD 2011.

Each stage of the consultation process has enabled a refinement of the Borough Spatial Strategy to guide the location of new development in the Borough and to choose the most sustainable locations for new growth. However one of the most significant changes to the development of the Rotherham Core Strategy (2011) was the election of the coalition Government of Conservatives and Liberal Democrats who indicated their desire at an early stage, to abolish Regional Strategies and consequently the high population growth targets included within the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Strategy for Rotherham Borough.

This enabled the Council to re-consider the likely number of new homes required in the Borough and to propose a locally derived housing target that is based on local evidence and uses the Communities and Local Government Household Projections 2008. This new target will require considerably less Greenfield land and land within the Green Belt to meet local needs. The loss of Green Belt land and the high housing targets were the issues of greatest concern raised in the 2009 Core Strategy Revised Options consultation.

The proposed abolition of the Regional Strategy also enabled the Council to look at where new houses should be built and whilst Rotherham Urban Area is expected to meet a high proportion of all new homes to be built, the other principal settlements along key public transport corridors are also expected to meet a significant proportion of the Borough’s housing and employment needs. The Council had consulted in 2009 on the spatial distribution of growth in the Borough and this enabled us to re-consider how growth should be distributed throughout Rotherham and which settlements could potentially support new development opportunities.

The Integrated Impact Assessment incorporating the Sustainability Appraisal, Health Impact Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment and Habitat Regulation Scoping Assessment was carried out by Jacobs Ltd.

Consultation commenced on 4th July and ran until 16th September 2011.

Workshops were held with communities of interest including faith / inter-faith; older people; women; disabled people; the biodiversity and natural environment forum; black and minority ethnic communities; young people; Rotherfed - tenants and residents associations; LGB &T group. Notes of meetings held with STAG (Scholes and Thorpe
A presentation was made to the Parish Network meeting.

Twenty drop-in sessions were held throughout the Borough this includes two further events held at Masbrough and Thornhill Community Centre, College Road, Masbrough on 5th September 2011 and at St John’s Church, St John’s Green, Kimberworth Park on Wednesday 7th September 2011. These drop-in sessions were not noted but encouraged people to respond either in writing via a response form or on-line. A list of all events is provided in the Feedback Report January 2012.

A Statutory Notice was placed in the Rotherham Advertiser, Dinnington and Worksop Guardian and the South Yorkshire Times. Copies of the draft Core Strategy, Sites and Policies Issues and Options DPD (June 2011), Integrated Impact Assessment non-technical summary and settlement grouping leaflets were made available in all libraries and in the Customer Service Centres at Rotherham Civic Building, and at the reception of Bailey House, Rotherham; Maltby, Aston and Swinton Customer Service Centres and at Dinnington Neighbourhood Office. The documents were also made available to the seven Area Assembly offices and the Parish Councils. All documentation relating to the consultation was placed on the Forward Planning web page and were available to download. CD’s were made available on request.

A letter was sent to 4,700 people on the Council’s database including the General and Specific consultees and other people who had confirmed to the local planning authority that they wished to be consulted on the preparation of the Borough Development Plan.

A number of press releases were made and the Council responded to a number of enquiries from the Press a list of all press related enquiries and releases is noted in the Feedback Report.

Over 7441 representations were received from 6,265 consultees to both consultation documents: 643 representations were received from 91 consultees into the Core Strategy; however these summary figures exclude the representations that were made to the two geographic specific proposals in Core Strategy policy CS1. Core Strategy Policy CS1 refers to two broad locations for growth at Bassingthorpe Farm on the north west of Rotherham Urban Area and at Dinnington east in the south east of the Borough. The Council received 1088 representations to the proposed broad location for growth at Bassingthorpe Farm. Previously, in 2009, the Council and received 3,020 representations to this proposal.

In the 2011 consultation 1,879 representations were received to the proposed broad location for growth at Dinnington east and in 2009 when there was more limited public engagement in the Dinnington, Anston, Laughton Common area there were 460 representations received.

The Draft Core Strategy and Sites and Policies Issues and Options Consultation (July 2011) Feedback Report was published in January 2012.

All of the representations received to the Core Strategy consultation in 2011 and the Council’s response to them have been entered onto the Council’s database and these comments can be viewed via the Council’s consultation portal: http://rotherham.limehouse.co.uk/portal/
The representations received to the Sites and Policies Issues and Options DPD have been put onto the Council’s database but the Council’s response to these representations had not been made at the time of publication of the Core Strategy.

**Rotherham Local Plan | Publication Core Strategy | June 2012**

In preparing its Publication Core Strategy the Council has had regard to:

- Consultation comments and feedback on the Draft Core Strategy
- Recommendations of the Integrated Impact Assessment (including Sustainability Appraisal)
- The Localism Act and changes to national planning policy
- Whether any elements of the Regional Strategy should be retained (assuming that these documents will be abolished by the Government)
- Legal advice
- Feedback as a result of our involvement in the Planning Advisory Service’s free Direct Support programme
- The outcome of cross boundary discussions with neighbouring authorities

A number of changes have been made to the structure of the document and its policies, including the merging of policies and the inclusion of new policies where considered appropriate. A schedule of changes to the Core Strategy is included as an appendix in the Integrated Impact Assessment Addendum 1 (2012). This is available on our website.

The Publication Core Strategy is published for consultation for a six-week period, beginning on Monday 25 June 2012 and ending on Monday 6 August 2012. The following documents have been made available:

- Publication Core Strategy
- Integrated Impact Assessment (including Sustainability Appraisal, Health and Equality Appraisals and Habitats Regulations Scoping Opinion) consisting of:
  - Integrated Impact Assessment 2011
  - Integrated Impact Assessment 2011 Non-technical Summary
  - Integrated Impact Assessment 2012 Update
- Infrastructure Delivery Study
- Consultation Statement
- Statement of Representations Procedure

Copies of the documents, response forms and guidance notes are available on the Council’s website and hard copies of documents available at each of the Council’s customer service centres and libraries.

Letters or emails of notification have been provided to all those on the consultation database (8,780 people) including the general and specific consultees, stakeholders and general public. Press notices have been placed in the Rotherham Advertiser, South Yorkshire Times and Dinnington and Worksop Guardian. A press briefing, to which media were invited, took place on 6 May 2012. Press releases were prepared and circulated to the local press.

Copies of the documents have been made available to Council Members at the Town Hall and copies were also distributed to Town and Parish Council’s within the borough. Copies of the documents have also been made available on CD.
A copy of the Statement of Representations Procedure (which formed the basis of the press notice) and the notification letter are provided at Annex 4.

All valid representations received during the consultation period will be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate upon submission of the Core Strategy.
Dear Colleague

Rotherham Local Development Framework  
Participation in Preparing Spatial Options for the Core Strategy  
– Preliminary consultation pack

You will recall that I contacted you via email on the 07/10/05 to seek your views on the draft objectives to be used to underpin the Core Strategy which is to be the first planning document to be prepared in the LDF. If you responded to this earlier consultation I thank you for your comments.

I am now asking you to consider further preliminary work in progress for the Core Strategy which involves the consideration of Draft Spatial Options and subsequent sustainability appraisal. Appraisal and more formal public consultation in the near future will assist in selecting a preferred option in due course. This will be taken forward and worked up as the Core Strategy to 2021. The Core Strategy will be supplemented by additional LDF documents containing detailed development control policies and land allocations, initially for housing, the economy and transportation.

Details of current work in progress are attached in the Consultation Pack.

You are invited to attend a Workshop in the Bailey Suite, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham arriving at 09:30 for a 10:00 start on Friday 17 February 2006 to receive presentations and comment on preliminary LDF work. A lunch is to be provided and it would be helpful if you could confirm your attendance by Monday 6 February 2006, if you are unable to attend you are welcome to send an appropriate substitute, but confirmation of attendance is required. A map providing directions to the venue is available on the Council’s web site.

Your Response section in the Pack invites you to comment on particular matters and to put forward other options or issues for consideration. You can comment at the workshop or if you cannot attend you are asked to respond by Friday 24 February 2006. In the meantime, if you require any further advice or explanation regarding the Core Strategy Options or other LDF matters please contact Forward Planning. Contact and response details are contained in the Pack.
If the Workshop and informal consultation responses are favourable the options will be finalised and subjected to comprehensive sustainability appraisal prior to formal consultation with the public and stakeholders in April /May.

The Council has undertaken consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (consultation period ended 13/01/06). A sustainability appraisal panel has been established and two workshops have been held with the Panel. The methodology proposed in the sustainability appraisal report was considered by the Panel and any necessary changes will be made to this report prior to the comprehensive sustainability appraisal of the draft Core Strategy objectives and the four options.

Thank you for your co-operation and assistance in this important process I look forward to meeting you on **Friday 17/02/06**.

Yours faithfully

**Karl Battersby**
Head of Planning and Transportation Service
Welcome and Introductions

Phi Turnidge Group Leader, gave a welcome and introduced members of the Forward Planning Section. It was explained that the ‘Front-loaders’ group was intended to represent those organisations and individuals (both RMBC external and internal) who wish to have a more in-depth involvement in LDF preparation. The Group will help inform RMBC’s plans to consult on the various LDF components as well as to guide its actual preparation. The workshop was introduced as the first front-loaders event to discuss the preparatory work for the LDF’s Core Strategy as set out in the consultation pack sent out to all invitees to the event.

Presentations

Presentations were given on:

- Core Strategy – Andy Duncan
- Spatial Planning Zones – Helen Sleigh
Questions and Answers following presentations:
- Sustainability Appraisal.

- Q. What is the status of the Core Strategy Objectives?
  A. It was outlined that the 30 Core Strategy Objectives informed preparation of the Core Strategy Options and should not be confused with the 22 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives which are used to appraise the Core Strategy objectives, options and other LDF documents. Each Core Strategy Option satisfies the objectives in different ways and the Sustainability Appraisal would determine the “best fit”. It was also re-iterated that these options are not set in stone, are not Council policy but only being put forward to stimulate debate.

- Q. Is the Sustainability Appraisal set by Government?
  A. The Government has produced Guidance working to Legislation produced nationally and by the European Union. However, it has been left largely to Local Authorities to formulate their own detailed Sustainability Appraisal methodology.

- Q. How will this process evolve?
  A. The Sustainability Appraisal will help choose options and guide identification of a Preferred Core Strategy Option which is most likely to be not one choice of Option but a hybrid of the options.

- Q. “Sustainability” can be a subjective term and jargon needs to be clearly explained. Terms mean different things to different people, how can this confusion be best avoided?
  A. A glossary is provided but could be improved.

- Spatial Planning Zones.

- Q. Whilst 5 broad areas was useful to understand the dynamics as a planning tool how does this apply to discrete issues such a neighbourhood deprivation or rural sites. Could cross cutting issues ‘get lost’ in zones?
  A. The proposed spatial planning zone boundaries reflect, to an extent, ‘natural’ communities. Planners find it easier to deal with smaller spatial areas when analysing information and preparing future policies and land allocations. ‘Journey to Work’ information is a device to identify meaningful communities and travel patterns between home and places of employment. Draft PPS3 proposes the use of Housing Market Areas – these have yet to be defined and may cross borough boundaries. Spatial planning zone boundaries may have to be reflected or adjusted in the future to reflect Housing Market Area Boundaries. The Babtie work was highlighted as a useful reflection of discrete communities.

- Q. Spatial Zones were recognised as a good idea but the use of commuting patterns was queried.
  A. It was outlined that this method was supported by good data collection (at the output area level) and showed how communities relate to one another. Although commuting patterns was not the sole factor used to identify the zones, it was stressed that these areas were only intended to provide a device to determine settlement pattern dynamics.
- Q. Shouldn’t the pro-environment elements be equally protected by the planning process whichever option is chosen?
  - A. Yes, the planning process will protect interests equally but the provision of alternative options is intended as a device to stimulate debate and to stress differences between options, i.e. environmental elements more likely to be most successfully protected under the pro-environment option.

**Core Strategy.**

- What is the difference between the UDP and the LDF?
- The LDF is the next generation of Development Plans and will gradually replace the existing UDP as and when the various elements of the LDF are prepared and adopted. Flowing from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the LDF is designed to be loose leaf and be more responsive to changes and needs of the community than the UDP. The UDP provides a baseline that will help guide Core Strategy Options development. Again it was stressed that the Options are not exclusive and that the likely preferred Option will be a ‘pick and mix’ variation of the current options as well as the UDP baseline.

The following two questions, taken from the Consultation Pack sent to invitees prior to the event, were also offered for discussion:

- Q. Has the LDF process and associated jargon been adequately explained enabling you to engage in discussions about the Core Strategy Spatial Options?
  - A. The process does involve the use of jargon but the use of a glossary is welcomed although it was recognised it could be improved. The use of a Reader’s Panel was suggested.

- Q. Are the emerging draft options sufficiently easy to understand? If not, how might wider understanding be improved?
  - A. The consensus of the meeting was “yes”. The use of options to compare side by side was helpful but it may be useful to present this information in pamphlet form with explanatory bullet points. It also needed to be clarified that although options were presented they were not exclusive and other approaches would be fully considered. It should be more clearly explained the intention that the final Option will not simply be the choice of any one of the Options presented but a hybrid identifying the best aspects of each.

**Workshop Activity (Group Based)**

Attendees were asked to join one of three groups, places having been pre-allocated focussing upon three broad areas of interest:

- Retail/ Leisure and Transport
- Waste and Environment
- Housing, Employment and Industry

Facilitated discussion took place for 1¼ hours focussing upon how the identified areas of interest are likely to be affected by the suggested Core Strategy Options and whether any additional or hybrid options could be identified. Following introductions, each group initiated discussion by reviewing social, economic and environmental changes in Rotherham over the past 15 years and anticipating what might happen over the next 15 years (LDF plan period).
Workshop Feedback

Yellow Group – facilitated by Andy Duncan covering Retail / Leisure and Transport.

Key Points raised:-

- It would be helpful to emphasise the fact that this is the vision for the next fifteen years and then highlight the options.
- It would be helpful to explain the constraints of Government guidance and the Regional Spatial Strategy that will effect the eventual outcome.
- A summary of the SA would be more ‘palatable’.
- There is an issue of practicality regarding relational timescales i.e., the Local Transport Plan should fit with the LDF but they have different timeframes.
- An explanation of the purpose of the Core Strategy would be useful (i.e. accommodating household growth, locating housing, providing for employment needs etc.) along with generally less jargon (i.e. “approach” rather than “option” or “scenario”). RSS wording of “what, where and how much” could be useful.
- As the whole of Yorkshire and Humber is now broadband enabled the growth of home working should be reflected in the SA and the potential for less need to travel considered. Also need to consider the potential impact on town centres if people do travel less.
- Need to address the major issue of providing affordable housing.
- There could be improvements made to better address the role of planning and why planning has such an important purpose as an introduction to the Core Strategy.
- The possibility of merging the SA panel with the front-loaders club was suggested.
- Need to recognise the contribution of the private sector in delivering development.
- Use of three options tends to steer you towards picking one – need to make the possibility of a hybrid option or different options more explicit.


Key Points raised:-

- Discussion started with a review of changes within the society, economy and environment of Rotherham over the previous fifteen years, such as the decline of industry, changes to colliery landscapes. Looking forward to the next fifteen years (LDF Plan Period) it was suggested the climate change agenda will have enhanced importance and that the environment will be more regarded as an “asset” to encourage investment, e.g. through tourism. Whilst pollution was once very visible it is less visible now but remains an issue of concern.
- It should be stressed that certain regulations and requirements will apply whichever option or hybrid option is eventually chosen. The Market always works within a framework of legislation – the role of the LDF is to decide how to plan to address Rotherham’s identified key sustainability issues.
- As an issue, ‘environment’ could been seen as an area where the pro-market and pro-environment options could merge through, for example, encouragement of new innovative environmental industries. The Options should avoid giving the impression that the market and the environment are mutually exclusive.
- It was noted the Pro-Market Option was largely reactive and the Pro-Environment as proactive.
- The realism of the options was queried. For example, why was the Waverley development left out of the Pro-Environment Option – it was explained that this development is less likely to be actively encouraged through the pro-environment option and would be of a different nature to that under the pro-market option.
- There were key omissions on the maps such as the South Yorkshire Forest and proposed Wetland creation areas (e.g. Dearne Valley).
- Pro-environment map should emphasise the likely emphasis on ‘enhancement’ of built and natural heritage not just protection.
- Whilst the maps recognise nature conservation designations, they should also recognise the built environment e.g. proposed new conservation areas.
- Should be noted that the ‘zonings’ on the maps need not automatically exclude other development types – for example some development could still occur within the Pro-Environment Option’s ‘positive land management areas’.
- Two group members particularly welcomed Rotherham’s approach to Core Strategy formulation as a very useful stimulus for debate and suggested this approach was well advanced compared to other authorities within the region.
- Should consider how to fully represent the plans of other agencies, not just RMBC, e.g. Highway schemes and the Environment Agency’s flood risk areas. The maps could also try to represent effects of climate change (e.g. drought and migration patterns).

Red Group – facilitated by Helen Sleigh covering Housing, Employment and Industry

Key points raised:-

- Discussion initially focussed on a vision for the Borough
- In the 2021 Vision political boundaries should be less important as people commute further to work and loyalties to particular communities weakens. Inter relationships between areas will become stronger as people make personal choices to live and work in different localities
- Concern expressed that in the RSS Vision a City Region is promoted; but will this mean that Sheffield becomes the ever more dominant community? Will Rotherham become a service centre for Sheffield?
- Recognises the market to facilitate delivery
- In 2021 travel to work issues may not be such a concern
- Concern of being a “poor relation” to Sheffield
- Energy problems in the future could reinforce the role of small / local centres. The Northern Way actively promotes travelling to Leeds / Manchester for very specific services
- Is the planning system hindering competitive growth
- Settlement hierarchy was determined largely by coalfields but that is not necessarily the basis for future investment. In creating a hierarchy of sustainable settlements transport links are vital. Not every village will have sufficient facilities to support the needs of the community.
- Air quality is an increasingly important issue and this could impact on where houses are built and long distance commuting.
- Need to consider the social capital invested into communities. What is their raison d’etre? Should we consider future job creation in theses communities to meet local needs?
The Babtie study supports the creation and maintenance of local service centres but in an identified hierarchy of communities geographically spread throughout the Borough.

Much of the Borough’s landscape was created by coal mining and the area is perceived to be industrially degraded by inward investors. It is essential that the environment is improved in its widest sense.

Recognition that globalisation of the economy is occurring and what can places like Rotherham do to attract inward investors?

The image that is portrayed by Rotherham and south Yorkshire is vital to attracting inward investment. Ref. made to Orwell’s “Road to Wigan Pier” – Sheffield Road Rotherham. The economic and environmental resources available in Rotherham are vital to the future prosperity of Rotherham. Look at the improvements made in the Dearne Valley compared to 10 years ago – however concern expressed that this was not necessarily an appropriate location to focus scarce resources (based on settlement patterns established through the location of coal mines in the past). How attractive is this location to inward investors? Are we promoting an unsustainable settlement pattern in the Dearne Valley?

However it was acknowledged that we need to keep the momentum going regarding the reclamation of derelict land. Improving the image of Rotherham is vital to maintain and improve the prosperity of the Borough. The former landscape of coalfield dereliction should be improved.

Focus on Dearne Valley transport links across to Doncaster and Barnsley is vital.

Within Sheffield the substantial investment into supertram infrastructure has revitalised Sheffield – could this type of infrastructure investment achieve the same outcome in Rotherham?

Need to link LDF with LEA and actively promote the attraction and retention of graduates. Work based learning needs to be promoted. Two pronged approach “grow our own economy” as well as inward investment.

In the early – mid ’90’s the only way to achieve restoration of derelict land was through derelict land grant and planning permissions for hard after uses. But initially funding for restoration to soft after uses was not funded.

What are people’s aspirations? What housing choice needs to be provided? Where should new jobs and houses be located? Understanding of the Housing Market Areas (as proposed by draft PPS 3) is essential.

People don’t leave their traditional communities easily; it is essential that links are properly resourced. Transport links to services and jobs are essential for communities. The more deprived communities have a lack of income to support private transport but are often forced to provide a car to access job opportunities where shift working or early starts are required.

Cross boundary linkages are vital to adjoining Counties and Boroughs.

The affordability of housing is a big issues and the differences between the “haves” and “have nots” becomes more pronounced. The stock is in many cases of poor quality. How does the planning system deal with this issue?

Where will the funding and investment for the future come from? It is highly unlikely that this Borough will see the same level of public sector investment that it has done in the recent past. Private sector investment will be vital in the future. This is a different driver to the previous driver when funding was mainly via the public purse.

Concern was expressed regarding “Planning Gain Supplement”. There is a very fine line between the development progressing and prevention of the development - a housing development site has recently produced a negative land
value as a result of reclamation costs and requirements through the S106 planning gain.

- In south Yorkshire there was recognition of the need for grants and funding.
- Recognised that the social and community enterprise sector is fragile in Rotherham
- Support for the Community and Social Enterprise sector is required from public agencies. Also consideration should be given to the RMBC Procurement Strategy and how this strategy can assist the S &C E sector.
- More support should be given to local companies – reuse of backyards / outbuildings for residential purposes “gobbles up” potential workspace for budding entrepreneurs. There needs to be a hierarchy of workspace to meet the needs of all sectors.
- Consideration needs to be given to the community ownership of buildings. What about the long term ownership of housing and the environment should aspects of these areas be owned / managed by local people?
- We need to share the 2021 Spatial Vision (along with the Community Strategy Vision with communities and seek their views – real choices need to be given to communities and stakeholders. Communities are suffering from consultation fatigue and are cynical about the reasons behind the consultation. Don’t just pay “lip service” to community views. It is essential that an open debate is had. Don’t decide everything now – listen to what people want first.
- Options have been presented as black and white – it should be a continuum. Option B is not the only approach.
- The LDF should be delivered with “more passion” and an offer of a reading panel for documentation was offered.

**Workshop Conclusions and the Next Steps**

Phil Turnidge explained that this event was only the start of the process.

The next steps will include:-

- Amend Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report following recent consultation.
- Refine Core Strategy Objectives following initial sustainability appraisal.
- Sustainability Appraise Core Strategy Options.
- Finalise Options and Sustainability Appraisal Report
- Ongoing informal consultation on Core Strategy Options and Sustainability Appraisal Results (Feb / Mar ’06).
- Amend Core Strategy Options and undertake public participation for Preferred Core Strategy Objectives & Options and Sustainability Appraisal (May ’06).
- Development of Preferred Option as basis for Core Strategy development and supporting Policies and Allocations Development Plan Documents.
Annex 2 Core Strategy | Issues and Options 2006: Briefing Note

Below is a copy of the Briefing Note presented to elected Members on the Local Development Framework Steering Group May 2006 an officer / Council Member working party established to share information and discuss ideas prior to formal ratification through the Cabinet system. The Briefing Note outlines the proposed activities at that time:

**Rotherham Local Development Framework Have Your Say**

*Your choices could shape the Rotherham of tomorrow*

Members have already received a copy of the questionnaire and accompanying leaflet. In addition to circulation to all Members the consultation has been targeted in the following way:

10 workshops throughout the 7 area assembly areas:

- Rother Valley West 15/5/6
- Wentworth North 22/5/6
- Wentworth Valley 22/5/6
- Rotherham North 23/5/6
- Wentworth South 24/5/6
- Rother Valley South 25/5/6
- Rotherham South 25/5/6
- Wentworth North 30/5/6
- Wentworth South 5/6/6
- Rother Valley West 5/6/6

Workshops with communities of interest:

- Bio-diversity forum organized for 6/6/6
- Workshop with representatives from disabled community 2/6/6
- Workshop with black and minority ethnic communities yet to be arranged

Ongoing work with Voice and Influence officers to engage with young people will be undertaken over a longer period of time.

Information shared with the Chamber of Commerce (08/05/06) and hard copies of the questionnaire and leaflet circulated to all members present at the meeting.

Presentations are being given to the Local Strategic Partnership Theme Boards by the LSP lead officer with a request to complete the questionnaire and return to Forward Planning.

All parish councils in the Borough and the adjoining parish councils have been sent a copy of the questionnaire and leaflet.

A letter has been circulated (electronically) to the (Front Loaders Group) key governmental and non-governmental agencies operating in the Borough (approximately 100 people).
The questionnaire is a SNAP (i.e. web based) questionnaire and is available on the Council’s Forward Planning web page and can be accessed via local libraries who have been briefed.

Further supporting information and background papers are also available on the web site if people would like more information on the work undertaken to prepare this questionnaire.

A press release has been prepared and placed in local papers week beginning 15/05/06 telling people about the questionnaire and asking them to complete it online.
### May / June 2006 - Community Workshop Dates

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<td>22-Jun</td>
<td>Rotherham Chamber Meeting</td>
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To all library staff

Dear Librarian

Rotherham Local Development Framework
Spatial Options for the Core Strategy – Have Your Say

The following is an example of a letter circulated to inform people of the forthcoming consultation. I trust this will act as sufficient briefing to enable you to deal with any queries regarding access to the Council’s Forward Planning web page. However, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, Helen Sleigh, on the above number.

“We would like you to get involved in the preparation of Rotherham’s new development plan, which will set out where new houses, industry, shops and other leisure facilities are to be built in the future, along with how we will protect the environment and how we get around the Borough. This new development plan is called a Local Development Framework and replaces the Rotherham Unitary Development Plan.

To help us to find out what you think we have prepared a leaflet that explains further where we are at the moment and the issues we would like you to comment on. We have also prepared a Choices Questionnaire that will assist you in getting your ideas across to us.

The leaflet summarises the three Options: responding to market forces (A), matching needs with opportunities (B), managing the environment as a key resource (C), and the current Unitary Development Plan position and is available on the forward planning web page www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning. We have also prepared a questionnaire that is available on the web page and can be completed online.

In addition to the questionnaire on the web site consultation is being undertaken with a variety of organisations and local communities and communities of interest within Rotherham to ensure support for the final preferred option that will be used to prepare the first draft vision and policies of the Core Strategy. The consultation process commences on Monday 15 May.

A number of background papers have been prepared to develop the emerging options and these have also been placed on the planning web page for information. There is also a link to the initial sustainability appraisals of the three draft options and the Unitary
Development Plan that have been undertaken. If you would like to comment on this initial sustainability appraisal work your comments will be greatly received.

We would be pleased therefore if you would complete the on line questionnaire that has been split into four sections – environment, economy, natural resources and social. However if you feel able to complete only specific sections or selected questions in the questionnaire, your response would be highly welcome. There is a £100 prize draw that you will be entered into if you have completed the questionnaire.

Thank you for your continued support of this process, we look forward to receiving your questionnaires and any additional comments in due course. The closing date for completing the questionnaire is **9 June 2006**. If you have difficulty in accessing these documents online or wish to discuss the Local Development Framework further please contact the Forward Planning Team on 01709 823869 and a hard copy of the leaflet and questionnaire can be sent out to you.

We intend to prepare a summary of the questionnaire responses received and after it has been reported to Councillors, feedback will be placed on the web page. Our next steps are to prepare a draft Core Strategy (preferred option) vision, policies and a proposals map and consult on this document towards the end of this summer.

As you can imagine, this is the start of a long consultation process around the Local Development Framework and we hope that you will continue to be involved in the future.”

Yours faithfully

**Karl Battersby**
Head of Planning and Transportation Service
In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (Regulation 26) the following provides information about the Core Strategy Development Plan Document Preferred Options Report and consultation process.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT PROPOSALS MATTERS

Title of document: Pre-Submission Public Participation Draft Core Strategy Preferred Options

Subject matter: Draft policy and spatial directions for the Core Strategy which will set out the Council’s proposed planning framework for the Borough to be comprised of a spatial vision and strategic objectives, a spatial strategy, core policies and a monitoring and implementation framework.

Area covered by the document: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough

Consultation period: Comments on the Core Strategy Development Plan Document Preferred Options are invited during the statutory consultation period which will run from Monday 5th February 2007 to Friday 23rd March 2007. Comments should be made in writing using the response form provided to be received by 5pm on Friday 23rd March 2007.

Comments and requests for notification about submission or adoption of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document should be sent to:
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Forward Planning (CSPO), Planning and Transportation Service, Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham, S60 1TD, or by e-mail to forward.planning@rotherham.gov.uk.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

The following documents are available for inspection at the venues and times shown below:
- Core Strategy Development Plan Document Preferred Options
- Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy Preferred Options Development Plan Document

Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham (8:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
Customer Service Centre Civic Building, Walker Place, Rotherham (8:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
Customer Service Centre Station Street, Swinton (8:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
All libraries (normal opening times)

Karl Battersby
Director of Planning and Transportation Service,
Rotherham Borough Council, Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham, S60 1TD
Notification Letter to all Stakeholders on the Forward Planning Database

Strategic Director : Adam Wilkinson

Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham.  S60 1TD
Switchboard:  01709 382121, Direct: 01709 823869
Fax: 01709 823865, Email: forward.planning@rotherham.gov.uk
www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning

My Reference  Your Reference  Please ask for
de0133  Forward Planning

January 2007

To: ….

Dear Sir or Madam,

Rotherham Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Preferred Options (Regulation 26) and invitation to submit potential sites for the Allocations Development Plan Document (Regulation 25).

I am writing to let you know that the Council will publish its Preferred Options for the Core Strategy of Rotherham’s Local Development Framework (LDF) on 5th February 2007.

I am also writing to invite submission of specific development sites for potential allocation within the LDF’s Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD).

Core Strategy Preferred Options

The Core Strategy will set out the broad planning framework for the Borough to 2021 by identifying the towns and settlements where development is to be located. It will set out the broad amount of new development required and the strategic policies to make this happen.

The preferred options have been prepared having regard to extensive earlier informal consultation surrounding the issues affecting the Borough and the alternative options for how it could be planned.

You are now invited to make comments on the preferred options, and the sustainability appraisal report that accompanies them, during a period which commences on 5th February 2007 and ends on 23rd March 2007. We would be particularly interested in your comments on Sections 7 (Policy Directions) and 8 (Spatial Directions).

Any comments on the document must be made in writing and on the attached response form. The document and response form are available from our website (www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning), from libraries throughout the Borough, Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham, or from the Council’s Customer Service Centres at Civic Building, Walker Place, Rotherham or Station Street, Swinton during normal office hours. Alternatively hard copies can be obtained by calling (01709) 823869. The website also provides a useful record of all the pre-submission documents and the comments made so far.
Any comments may be accompanied by a request to be notified at a specific address that the development plan documents have been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination, and of its future adoption. Please let us know if you require this service.

Allocations (Site Specific) Development Plan Document

The Core Strategy will be supported by a site specific Allocations DPD and therefore the Council needs to find out what land is available to potentially meet future identified needs. An important feature of the new LDF system is the emphasis placed on early engagement in plan production aiming to achieve early consensus on which sites should be allocated for development. Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) Regulations, we are also asking you to let us know of any land that you wish to be considered for allocation for the following uses. It should be stressed that there will be less scope to introduce new sites as plan production progresses.

- Housing – including new dwellings, affordable housing, sheltered accommodation and sites for Gypsies and Travellers, etc.
- Industry and Commerce – including offices, manufacturing plants, storage & distribution, warehousing, etc.
- Retail.
- Leisure – including restaurants, pubs, cinema, theatres, children’s play facilities, health and fitness centres, hotels, etc.
- Waste – including sites for waste treatment/processing and transfer facilities.
- Transport – including interchanges, park and ride, new road links, etc.

Details of any suggested sites, including a plan identifying the exact location and site boundary, the existing and proposed use, land ownership and site availability should be provided on the attached response form.

Please be aware that whilst we are willing to consider all sites at this early stage in the preparation process the suggested sites will be assessed against Central and Regional planning guidance and will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal – these may advise against allocation of your site.

Responses to both the Core Strategy Preferred Options and suggested sites for the Allocations DPD should be sent before 5pm on 23 March 2007 to: Mr Karl Battersby, Director of Planning and Transportation, Rotherham Borough Council, Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham, S60 1TD, or sent by e-mail to: forward.planning@rotherham.gov.uk.

If you require any further information about the LDF or the above please do not hesitate to contact any member of Forward Planning on the above number. Finally, should you no longer wish to have you details kept on our consultation database please let us know.

Yours faithfully

Karl Battersby, Director of Planning and Transportation
The above report was presented to Cabinet Members on Wednesday 10 January and approved for consultation purposes on the Core Strategy Preferred Option.

The statutory consultation period will commence on Monday 5 February until Friday 23 March 2007 – subject to co-ordinating the printing of all documents.

A copy of the complete consultation pack that includes: Core Strategy Preferred Option document, its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal, a Statement of the Proposals and where the document can be viewed will be made available in all libraries, Bailey House, the Council’s Customer Service Centre at Civic Building, Walker Place in Rotherham Town Centre and at the Customer Service Centre, Station Street, Swinton.

A response form will also be made available for comments to be submitted on.

All of the documents will be available on the Council’s Forward Planning web page and can be downloaded from here. An electronic response form will also be made available. The documents will be available on the web site during the w/b 15 January 2007.

A leaflet has been prepared and is now available. This leaflet, along with a response form and an explanatory letter will be sent out to all interested persons on the Council’s Local Development Framework database -approximately 2,300 people and organisations.

Officers within the Forward Planning Team will be undertaking presentations to the Community Strategy partnership meetings and will undertake facilitated workshops with local partnerships, parish councils and communities of interest. There will also be press releases and a statutory notice will be put in the Rotherham Advertiser, South Yorkshire Times, Dinnington Guardian and the Sheffield Gazette.

The Area Assembly offices will have two copies of the complete pack and a stock of leaflets and flyers for advertising the consultation period in local village halls, parish rooms and all other community venues. The Community Planning Officers and Community Support officers are working closely with Forward Planning Team to assist in this major consultation.

Rotherham Chamber has also received a supply of leaflets to circulate to their networks.

For any further information please contact Forward Planning team 01709 823869.
In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 the following provides information about the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) and consultation process.

**DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS**

**Title of documents:** Rotherham Publication Core Strategy 2013 – 2028 DPD

**Subject matter:** The Core Strategy sets out the Council’s proposed over-arching spatial planning framework for the Borough for the next 15 years.

**Area covered by the document:** Rotherham Metropolitan Borough.

**Consultation period:** Representations on the Local Plan Core Strategy DPD consultation documents are invited during the statutory consultation period which will run from **Monday 25th June 2012 to Monday 6th August 2012**. Representations should be made using the Council’s online consultation portal accessible from [www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning)

or in writing to: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Forward Planning, Planning and Regeneration Service, Riverside House, Main Street, ROTHERHAM  S60 1AE

or by e-mail to: [forward.planning@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:forward.planning@rotherham.gov.uk)

All written and e-mail responses need to be made on a representation form as this information will be submitted to a Government appointed Planning Inspector. The representation form together with guidance notes can be found at [www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning) and at the locations listed below.

Any representation should focus on whether the Core Strategy DPD is

- Legally compliant or
- Sound (i.e. positively prepared, justified, effective or consistent with national policy)

Representations may also be accompanied by a request to be notified at a specific address of any of the following:

- that the Core Strategy DPD has been submitted for independent examination
- the publication of the recommendations of the person appointed to carry out an independent examination of the Core Strategy DPD
- the adoption of the Core Strategy.
Representations must be received by 5pm on Monday 6\textsuperscript{th} August 2012.

Copies of representations will be made available for inspection on request at the Council’s Customer Service Centre, Riverside House. Representations cannot therefore be treated as confidential.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS
The following documents are available for inspection at the venues and times shown below:

- Publication Core Strategy Development Plan Document
- Integrated Impact Assessment (including Sustainability Appraisal)
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Consultation Statement

- Customer Service Centre, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
- Customer Service Centre, Station Street, Swinton (8:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
- Customer Service Centre, New Street, Dinnington (8:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
- Customer Service Centre, Braithwell Road, Maltby (8:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
- Customer Service Centre, Worksop Road, Aston (8:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
- Customer Service Centre, Barbers Avenue, Rawmarsh (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday, and 9:00am to 1:00pm Saturday)
- All libraries in the Borough (normal opening times)

Further supporting background reports are available on the Council’s website at www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning

Paul Woodcock
Director of Planning & Regeneration, Rotherham MBC, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE
Notification Letter to all Stakeholders on the Forward Planning Database

20th June 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

Publication of Rotherham Core Strategy June 2012

I am writing to you as someone who has previously commented on Rotherham’s Local Plan (previously called the Local Development Framework). I want to let you know that on 25th June the Council will publish its Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) along with accompanying documents:

- Integrated Impact Assessment (including Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Opinion)
- Infrastructure Delivery Study
- Consultation Statement
- Statement of Representations Procedure

The Core Strategy sets out the ‘spatial’ strategy for the whole Borough and identifies the broad locations for delivering new housing and employment, including provision for retail, leisure and community facilities. It also sets out the strategic policies and the required new infrastructure to make all this happen.

Representations can be made over the six week period beginning Monday June 25th 2012 and ending Monday, August 6th 2012.

Please note that representations made should relate only to the ‘soundness’ and/or ‘legal compliance’ of the Core Strategy. Where possible comments should be made using our online consultation system which you can access from our website at: http://rotherham.limehouse.co.uk/portal/

All other comments must be made on a response form which can be downloaded from our website www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning or is available from any of the venues listed below or by contacting the Forward Planning team. Guidance notes explaining the process for making a representation, (including an explanation of ‘soundness’ and ‘legal compliance’), are also available on our website and at these locations.

Completed response forms should be sent via e-mail or by post using the contact details given below.

All representations on the Core Strategy Development Plan Document must be received no later than 5:00pm on Monday 6th August 2012.
Representations may also be accompanied by a request to be notified of any of the following:

- that the Core Strategy DPD has been submitted for independent examination
- the publication of the recommendations of the person appointed to carry out an independent examination of the Core Strategy DPD
- the adoption of the Core Strategy.

If you do require this notification please remember to specify this on your response form along with your contact details.

The documents are also available for inspection at the venues below during office hours:

- Customer Service Centre, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham
- Customer Service Centre, Station Street, Swinton
- Customer Service Centre, New Street, Dinnington
- Customer Service Centre, Braithwell Road, Maltby
- Customer Service Centre, Worksop Road, Aston
- Customer Service Centre, Barbers Avenue, Rawmarsh
- All libraries in the Borough (normal opening times)

For any further information or to be removed from our database please let us know using the contact details below, quoting reference number: «Person_ID»

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone: 01709 823869</th>
<th>Post: Rotherham MBC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 01709 372419</td>
<td>Forward Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:forward.planning@rotherham.gov.uk">forward.planning@rotherham.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>Planning and Regeneration Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web: <a href="http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning">www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning</a></td>
<td>Riverside House</td>
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<td>Main Street</td>
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Yours faithfully

Paul Woodcock
Director of Planning and Regeneration