WEALDEN DISTRICT (INCORPORATING PART OF THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK)

Proposed Modifications to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document

Making Representations on the Proposed Modifications to the Core Strategy DPD

Guidance Notes for Respondents

Before making your representation on the proposed modifications to our Core Strategy, we would encourage you to read the following guidance as it will explain how you can make representations and the type of comments which can be considered by the Inspector.

Purpose and Process

The purpose of this consultation is to invite representations on the modifications proposed to the Wealden District (Incorporating Part of the South Downs National Park) submitted Core Strategy. It is important that the proposed modifications are therefore read in context of the submitted Core Strategy itself. Copies of this document, together with the Proposed Modifications are available at the Wealden District Council Crowborough offices and at various deposit points. The consultation does not however seek comments on the Core Strategy itself for reasons set out below.

Following the examination in public of the Core Strategy the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended) 2004 requires that we now consult upon the proposed modifications to the Core Strategy in order that any comments received may be considered by the Inspector prior to him issuing his final report to Wealden District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

Wealden District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority jointly submitted the Core Strategy for Examination in August 2011. The Inspector appointed to conduct the examination, Mr Michael Moore BA (Hons) MRTPI CMILT MCIHT held an Exploratory Meeting on 12th October 2011. The Hearing sessions of the examination, relating to the submitted Core Strategy, ran from 17th January to 2nd February 2012.

As a result of evidence provided up to and during the Hearing, it became apparent to the Authorities and to the Inspector, that certain modifications may be beneficial to the submitted Core Strategy if soundness was to be achievable. It is these proposed modifications on which views are now invited. The Inspector has specifically asked in his letter to the Council dated 5th March 2012 that consultees confine comments “…solely to the modifications. This does not represent an opportunity to raise other matters
which either were or could have been part of earlier representations on the submitted Core Strategy. The consultation response forms and response handling are structured to meet this purpose and your attention is specifically directed to the following:

- The electronic and hard copy response form has been structured to seek views on any or each proposed modification; with a clear reference made to the modification in question.

- The Authorities role at this stage is to receive all properly made representations on the proposed modifications, to log them, categorise them in order to facilitate the Inspectors consideration and to then forward them to the Inspector without further comment.

- As part of the process all properly made representations will be published on the Wealden District Council website. In this regard you must accept that your comments will be made publicly available.

- Once the Inspector has considered all comments he will then issue his final report to Wealden District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority. This will include any recommendations for modification as appropriate which he feels are necessary to ensure soundness of the overall Core Strategy.

It is open to any individual to request that they wish to have their views heard in front of the Inspector. In this case and only if the Inspector considers that new matters are raised then he may decide to re-open the Hearing.

Background
The Core Strategy has now been through its formal Hearing sessions as part of its examination and the Inspector has considered all of the representations and evidence put forward as part of this process. During the Hearing sessions and in response to points raised, Wealden District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority put forward a number of proposed modifications for consideration. By way of his letter to the Authorities dated 5th March 2012 the Inspector has also put forward a number of other proposed modifications. The Council and the National Park Authority are now required to consult upon these modifications in order that any responses may be forwarded to the Inspector for his consideration. He will then issue his final report and recommendations to the District Council and the National Park Authority.

Next Steps
The Authorities have accordingly arranged for a six week period of consultation commencing on **Wednesday 11th April 2012**. To ensure that your views can be made known to the Inspector any comments must be received by the Council by **5.00pm on Wednesday 23rd May 2012**. Comments may be sent electronically by e-mail to ldf@wealden.gov.uk, by attaching an electronic copy of the form or by sending in your completed hard copy form or letter to **Head of Planning and Environmental Policy, Wealden District Council, Freepost SEA 10959, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1BR** or by e-mail to ldf@wealden.gov.uk by no later than **5pm on Wednesday 23rd May 2012**. Once the consultation period has closed we will forward all comments received to the Inspector via the Programme Officer Mrs Lynette Benton.
Submitting Your Representations

To assist the Inspector in his consideration we would encourage you to use our standard form which is available free to download at www.wealden.gov.uk. This has been designed to help ensure that your comments can clearly be identified with the proposed modification that they refer to. All properly made comments received will be scanned and forwarded to the Inspector via the Programme Officer. We would again remind you that the Inspector has requested that people responding confine their comments solely to the proposed modifications. We would also emphasise that you will need to consider the wording of the modifications in the context of the Core Strategy document itself.

Further Information

The Proposed Modification Document, Sustainability Appraisal/ Habitat Regulations of the Proposed Modifications and Submission documents can be viewed on the Wealden District Council website www.wealden.gov.uk. You may also download copies of the Representation Form, Guidance Notes and Venues of Public Inspection. Please telephone 01892 602007 or e-mail ldf@wealden.gov.uk if you require assistance in submitting your representation or if further information is required. If you, or somebody you know, would like the information (guidance notes, forms etc) in large print, braille, tape/CD or in another language please let us know.

For any queries regarding the examination process or timetabling please contact the Programme Officer, Lynette Benton on 07985 878623 or by e-mail lynette.benton@wealden.gov.uk.


Representations cannot be treated in confidence. Regulation 30 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, as amended, requires copies of all representations to be made publicly available. The Council will also provide names and associated representations on its website but will not publish personal information such as telephone numbers, e-mails or private addresses. By submitting a representation on the Proposed Modifications you confirm that you agree to this and accept responsibility for your comments.