

Sedgefield Borough Council

Local Development Framework:
Submitted Draft Statement of Community
Involvement

Assessment for Soundness

September 2005

Test of Soundness Matrix

| Test of Soundness Indicator | How Sedgefield Borough has complied with Indicator |
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| Local Planning Authority has complied with the minimum standards for consultation, as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations, 2004 | <p>Sedgefield Borough Council has complied with the minimum standards set out in the Regulations, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Copies of the Pre-Submission Draft SCI were made available for inspection during normal office hours at main Council Offices located at Green Lane, Spennymoor; o The Pre-Submission Draft SCI was published on the Council's website at www.sedgefield.gov.uk; o The Pre-Submission Draft SCI was sent to all consultees advocated by PPS12, and also to each of the specific consultation bodies that Sedgefield Borough felt that the proposed subject matter of the SCI affected the body; and o A press notice was published in a local newspaper informing that the Pre-Submission Draft SCI was available for inspection, and the places and times when the inspection could take place. |
| Local Planning Authority's strategy for community involvement links with other community involvement initiatives e.g. the Community Strategy | A separate document will be produced by Planning Services showing how the LDF will provide the spatial interpretation of the Community Strategy. |
| Statement identifies in general terms which local community groups and other bodies will be consulted | Appendix 1 of the Submission Draft SCI identifies these local community groups and other bodies that have been consulted on the pre-submission draft SCI, and will be consulted on future Local Development Documents produced by Planning Services. |
| Statement identifies how the community and other bodies can be involved in a timely and accessible manner | <p>Chapter 2 of the Submission Draft SCI addresses this issue by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Detailing how the community will have access to information relating to Local Development Documents; o Describing what consultation methods could be used during each stage of the production of the Local Development Documents to engage the Target Groups; and o How comments made at a consultation exercise will be used. |

| Test of Soundness Indicator | How Sedgefield Borough has complied with Indicator |
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| Methods of consultation to be employed are suitable for the intended audience and for the different stages in the preparation of local development documents | Appendix 2 of the Submission Draft SCI details a Consultation Method Matrix for the Local Development Framework, showing what consultations methods will be employed to consult with different target groups with the Borough, on the various Local Development Documents that Sedgefield Borough will produce. |
| Resources are available to manage community involvement effectively | Paragraph 1.8 of the Submission Draft SCI sets out the resources available to manage community involvement effectively, and details that this will be influenced by variables such as staff resources, and the budget of the Forward Planning Team at the time of the community involvement exercise. |
| Statement shows how the results of community involvement will be fed into the preparation of development plan documents and supplementary planning documents | Issue is addressed in paragraph 2.10.1 of the Submission Draft SCI. |
| Authority has mechanism for reviewing the statement of community involvement | Issue is addressed in paragraph 1.9 of the Submission Draft SCI. |
| Statement clearly describes the planning authority's policy for consultation on planning applications | Chapter 3 of the Submission Draft SCI clearly describes this issue. |

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