

Agenda Item 10

Forward Planning

Salisbury District Council, 61 Wyndham Road
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3AH

Officer to contact: Sarah Hughes
direct line: 01722 434674
email: shughes@salisbury.gov.uk
web: www.salisbury.gov.uk

Report

Subject : Corporate Consultation project – Context Report
Report to : The Cabinet
Date : Wednesday 13 June 2007
Author : Sarah Hughes, Senior Planning Officer
Cabinet Member : Councillor Edge for Planning and Economic Development

Report Summary:

To give Councillors advance notification of the corporate consultation exercise to be undertaken in July.

The proposal

The new planning system of 'Local Development Frameworks' that is replacing the old system of local plans is divided into a series of documents. One of the key documents is the Core Strategy, which sets out the overarching principles that development in the district will need to conform to. It will also establish the number of houses and the amount of employment land that the District will need to provide. It will also reinforce the message of sustainable communities and will identify broadly where development will be directed.

Part of this new process officers have been gathering evidence to see what the key issues are that are facing the district and put forward a range of options to tackle them. This first stage of public consultation is called 'Issues and Options'.

There are a number of key corporate projects that are coming up for major consultation at the same time - the Issues and Options for the Core Strategy and the preferred options of the Salisbury Vision both require consultation in July.

A corporate decision has been made to also take this opportunity to refresh the Community Plans, which will have the added benefit of further cementing the relationship between the strategies and maximising synergies.

Each of the elements to this consultation exercise is broadly asking people what they want for their future. With the exception of the Vision, this is not a consultation exercise that is constrained by narrow choices. Both the Community Plan and Core Strategy are fundamental to the future of our communities and the alignment of these projects has a number of benefits, the main ones being:



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



- It is a good opportunity to ask the community in a comprehensive manner what they want to see in the future
- The consultation will accord with best practice and Government Guidance - *Planning Together Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and Spatial Planning: a practical guide*
- The consultation can ensure we pass the essential tests of soundness
- The consultation will comply with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and all other adopted procedures including the Wiltshire Compact.
- The consultation is an opportunity to break down traditional barriers between service areas, pool skills and ensure there is a consensual and consistent approach to consultation techniques
- By bundling up consultation it will avoid a piecemeal approach and fatigue.
- The consultation can ensure best value and realise economies of scale.

The title for this initiative is:

Salisbury and South Wiltshire - Our Place in the Future

Therefore it is proposed to consult on the Core Strategy issues and options along with the other two projects mentioned above in July. The consultation will take the form of a very comprehensive exercise and will be fully compliant with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement. It will encompass a range of techniques including a media strategy, publicity, leaflets, direct notification, use of new technologies, neighbourhood forums and much more.

The consultation will be feeding back to the Community the issues that they raised at the first two consultation rounds for the Vision and how this has shaped the options the consultants have produced. The consultation will then ask for views on the final options for the vision.

Recommendation:

That the contents of the report be noted and that the formal consultation report, 'Salisbury and South Wiltshire - Our Place in the Future' be brought back to Cabinet at the 11 July meeting for authorisation to commence the formal consultation process.

Background Papers:

Implications:

Legal: None

Financial: None

Personnel: None

Environmental: None

Human Rights: None at this stage

Council's Core values: Excellent Service; Fairness and Equality; open, learning Council and a willing partner; communicating with the public; supporting the disadvantaged.

Consultation Undertaken: The vision has already been subject to a public consultation exercise. The Core Strategy issues and options report is being written with inputs from key consultees.

Parish Affected: All