

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT –
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TROWBRIDGE MASTERPLAN – DRAFT CONSULTATION

Purpose of Report

1. To agree to undertake a public consultation on the Trowbridge Draft Spatial Masterplan.
2. To minimise confusion and to allow for any amendments arising from the Core Strategy Examination in Public the consultation has been postponed until later in 2013.

Background

3. The Trowbridge Masterplan has been commissioned by the Transforming Trowbridge Board which is made up of key partners working to improve the town.
4. Transforming Trowbridge sets out the future vision for Trowbridge. The Masterplan will set out a plan to move the town towards that vision. In particular, it will look at how the town's strategic sites link with other parts of Trowbridge, including potential developments within the sites. It will guide future town centre growth and change through setting principles for new development and environmental enhancement, and appropriate design quality, character and local distinctiveness.
5. The Masterplan will support the development of a high quality town centre improvement Strategy that will attract and channel new investment into the town centre.
6. Phase 1 of the Masterplan, the Vision and Scoping study, was completed in August 2010. The Masterplan document currently being developed builds on this work.
7. It is anticipated that the Masterplan will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document.

Main Considerations for the Council

8. The process of developing the Masterplan will involve a six week public consultation that accords with the Wiltshire Statement of Community Involvement.
9. The consultation will include the following activities:
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Consultation with Trowbridge Community Area Board
 - Static exhibition in Trowbridge
 - Vision Board meeting focussed discussion
 - Web site material
 - Detailed analysis and response to representations

10. It would be beneficial to consult the public on the draft Masterplan in order to:
- Ensure that the Masterplan process takes into account the views of stakeholders
 - Support the Core Strategy process
 - Provide development guidance on key sites
 - Continue the momentum behind, and public awareness of, the Masterplan project.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

11. There are no environmental impacts to consider at this stage.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

12. The consultation will follow the process outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement.

Risk Assessment

13. Without a Masterplan to guide future development in the study area, there are increased risks of incremental and unplanned development that may not be in the interests of the wider community or follow the established Local Development Framework.
14. Without the guidance of a Masterplan, Wiltshire Council may lose the opportunity of ensuring holistic redevelopment and the delivery of the necessary infrastructure improvements and wider community benefits through S.106 planning contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy.

Financial Implications

15. Costs associated with the consultation are envisaged to be comparative with other consultations on this scale.

Legal Implications

16. There are no legal impacts to consider at this stage.

Options Considered

17. To:
- (i) Do nothing. This is not an option that can be considered as the Masterplan needs to be subject to a period of public consultation in order to be adopted as a supplementary planning document.
 - (ii) Undertake a public consultation exercise on the draft Masterplan. This would be beneficial in order to:
 - Ensure that the Masterplan process takes into account the views of stakeholders
 - Support the Core Strategy process
 - Provide development guidance on key sites
 - Continue the momentum behind, and public awareness of, the Masterplan project.

Reason for Proposal

18. The Masterplan needs to be subject to a period of public consultation in order to be adopted as a supplementary planning document

Proposal

19. To agree to undertake a period of public consultation on the Masterplan.
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The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

None