

“Creating a Sustainable Future for South Staffordshire”

Summary Leaflet

Issues & Options



Core Strategy

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL



Your Views Count!

The Core Strategy Issues and Options paper has now been published for consultation. Please let us have your views in writing by completing a response form, or by letter or email to:

Development Plans Manager

South Staffordshire Council
Council Offices
Codsall
South Staffordshire
WV8 1PX

Email: developmentplans@sstaffs.gov.uk

Fax: 01902 696403

Copies of this leaflet, the full Core Strategy Issues and Options document, or a response form are available on our website at www.sstaffs.gov.uk

Copies are also available at libraries across the District and from your local Parish Council.

If you require any further information or would like to speak to a member of the Development Plans Team, please telephone 01902 696426/423/317.

*Please note that any comments you make are not confidential and may be made publicly available.



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

यदि आपका कोई भी प्रश्न है तो कृपया हमसे संपर्क करें। हमें आपकी प्रतिक्रिया जानने में बहुत मज़ा आएगा।
If you have any questions, please contact us. We would love to hear from you.
假如下有您任何問題，請與我們聯絡。
もしあなたが何か質問があれば、ぜひお問い合わせください。私たちはあなたの意見を聞くのが大好きです。

Telephone: (01902) 696000

Local Development Framework

A New System

The planning system is changing. Under the new system, the South Staffordshire Local Development Framework (LDF) will replace the Local Plan. The LDF is a collection of documents setting out the Council's policies for development and land use up to 2021.

The Framework - What are we doing now?

The LDF will contain many separate documents. Those which the Council is currently preparing are shown below.



This leaflet aims to explain what we are proposing in the Core Strategy and how you can be involved!

Community Strategy

One of the changes in the new system is that we need to move away from traditional land use planning to a new 'spatial' approach – basically looking at not only how the LDF will affect land, but how other strategies and plans will play their part too.

One of the most important strategies is the Community Strategy – prepared by a group known as the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) which is made up of a number of public, private and voluntary bodies, such as local businesses, health authorities, police etc all of whom have an interest in South Staffordshire. There will be strong links between the LDF and the Community Strategy as they share common aims and objectives. Other strategies, such as the Crime Reduction Partnership Community Safety Strategy, Local Transport Plan and Housing Strategy, will play their part too. Working in partnership we hope that South Staffordshire will grow and develop for the benefit of all.

“We will strive to make South Staffordshire a safe and healthy place to live, with prosperous villages and thriving communities, where everyone can develop their abilities to the full, and pass on to future generations a better environment.”

Shared Vision – South Staffordshire Community Strategy, Corporate Strategy and LDF.

For more information on the LSP telephone (01902) 696229



LDF: The Core Strategy

What is the Core Strategy?

This is a key document in the LDF which will set out our long term vision and aims for South Staffordshire.

It will not identify specific sites for development – that will come later in other Development Plan Documents – but it will identify broad locations where housing development could take place. It will look at how best to use the land we have available to create quality places and strong communities, that people will enjoy living and working in, and be attractive to visitors too.

The Core Strategy will steer development to the right place at the right time and will help the District to grow and prosper in a managed way, so that we can meet our needs and the needs of future generations.



What You Can Do?

You can help us to focus on what is important for South Staffordshire by telling us what you think about our approach.

Overleaf you will see a set of key issues for South Staffordshire. Have we got it right? Are we moving in the right direction? Is there an important issue we have missed? Your response will help us to determine what will make South Staffordshire a better place for all.

This leaflet is just a summary of what is contained in the Core Strategy Issues and Options paper. If you would like more detailed information on this or any other document in the Local Development Framework, please contact a member of the Development Plans team.



Sustainable Communities

What does sustainable mean? It's a simple idea of planning for a better quality of life for everyone, both now and for future generations.

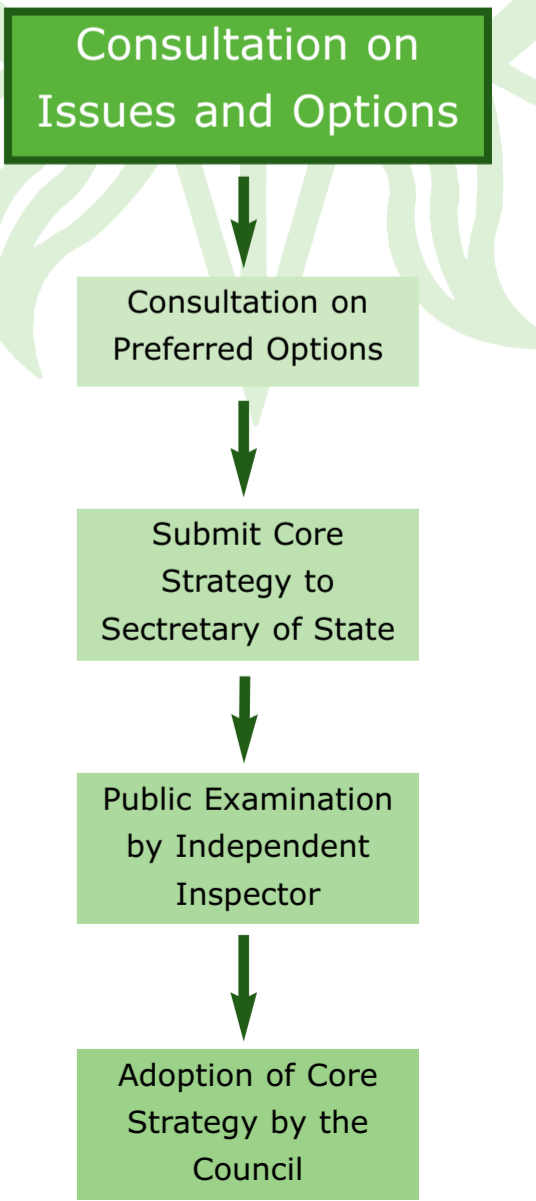
We need to get the balance right in protecting both the natural and built environment, but also look to our future needs. For example, the location and type of new housing and employment development, transport issues, design, and access to a good range of services and facilities will be guided by the Core Strategy and will ensure we promote sustainable communities.

“Together we need to make sure that we plan for the successful future of South Staffordshire”

What Happens Next?

This is the first stage in the consultation process on the Core Strategy. We will be holding a number of exhibitions across the District and staff will be available to explain the Core Strategy Issues and Options in more detail. After the six-week consultation period has ended we will look at all the information sent to us and prepare a Preferred Options document, which will take into account the comments we have received. There will then be a further consultation period, following which a final document will be prepared and submitted to the Secretary of State. An Independent Inspector will be appointed to examine the Core Strategy and objectors will have the chance to make representations to the Inspector.

For exhibition times, dates and locations see www.sstaffs.gov.uk or parish council offices and libraries throughout the District, or telephone 01902 696426/696317.



Key Issues

The Core Strategy contains a set of key issues, which we think are important for South Staffordshire. They are explained in greater detail in the Issues and Options Paper, but they are summarised here to give you an idea of the challenges we face. To help achieve these aims, we will develop a set of Core Policies that we believe will give us the best chance to bring forward what is best for the District. It is very important that we get this right. Please tell us if you think that the issues we have highlighted are the right ones? Are there any issues you feel we have missed? Let us have your views so that the policies we put into the Core Strategy will be built on firm foundations.

Who Is Involved?

We aim to reach everyone we think will have a view on what is important for the future of South Staffordshire.

This will include your Parish Council, local businesses, partners, land owners, developers and of course our residents.

If you wish to discuss the Core Strategy Issues and Options, or would like to be added to our database so that we can keep you up-to-date with progress on the LDF, then please contact the Development Plans Team on 01902 696423/317 or email: developmentplans@sstaffs.gov.uk

Green Belt and Open Countryside

We know that the protection of the Green Belt is a high priority for our residents. Our aim is to protect the Green Belt from unwanted development and to maintain and enhance the character and quality of our countryside and villages.

Housing

There is strong pressure on the housing market in South Staffordshire. We need to look at the type of housing needed and, in particular the amount of affordable housing to meet local needs. It will be important to consider design and density and to ensure the character and distinctiveness of our villages are taken into account.

Sustainable Communities

We aim to improve the quality of life in the District and believe that a thriving and sustainable community needs access to good local facilities and services. We will aim to ensure that new housing developments will provide adequate facilities including green spaces, education, health care and transport.

Locations for Growth

Our aim is to ensure that future growth in the District happens in the right place, at the right time. In doing so, we will need to take account of the housing and employment requirements set for us by the West Midlands Region.

Local Economy

We need to think about our employment opportunities, how we can support existing businesses and attract new ones, and how we can help support the rural economy. Tourism too has an important role to play, and we have to decide how we can promote tourism in a way that will not harm the qualities that makes South Staffordshire an attractive place to visit.

Natural Environment

South Staffordshire has a diverse and distinctive natural environment, which we aim to protect and enhance. We have a responsibility to ensure that the rich landscape and the wildlife it supports is passed on to future generations in an improved state. We will also be looking at ways to deal with the effects of climate change and to promote the use of renewable energy in new development.

Leisure Recreation and Culture

Open space and recreation facilities should be available to everyone. We aim to protect and enhance existing facilities, and ensure that new open spaces and green areas are provided where they are needed. We want to make sure that there are opportunities for the whole community to enjoy the facilities and activities South Staffordshire has to offer.

Community Safety and Design

South Staffordshire is a safe place to live with overall crime figures reducing. We need to ensure that opportunities are taken to plan out crime in new development. Good design in the creation of buildings, streets and spaces will help our communities to be safer and more secure, whilst respecting the special character and distinctiveness of our villages.

Historic Environment

South Staffordshire has a valuable historic environment with many fine buildings, historic parklands and gardens. We also recognise the value of locally important building and structures that make a significant contribution to the character of our villages. It is important to protect, conserve and enhance this legacy for the enjoyment of all and for future generations.

Transport and Accessibility

We will be looking at ways in which we can reduce our reliance on the car and the need to travel. This will mean encouraging more sustainable forms of transport, such as cycling and walking and to support schemes to improve public transport. We will give consideration to the best locations for new development that will reduce our need to travel.

Have your say on the future of South Staffordshire