



Planning for your future

NEW HOMES • JOBS • COMMUNITY SAFETY • LEISURE



OLDER PEOPLE • LOCAL SERVICES • CONSERVATION

Preferred Spatial Strategy Summary Leaflet

The Council is preparing new planning documents to replace the Local Plan. We want your views on our approach to future development in the District over the next 20 years.

This will be your main opportunity to have your say on the planning policies and proposals for South Staffordshire.

Local Development Framework

This is a planning framework which will replace the existing Local Plan. It will be a collection of documents that include planning policies and proposals to guide future development in the District.

The Core Strategy

The Core Strategy is the main document in the Local Development Framework. It sets the long-term vision for South Staffordshire and aims to secure a sustainable future for all those who live and work in the District, and for those who visit us too.

Sustainability Appraisal

The Core Strategy, along with other documents in the Local Development Framework, needs to have a Sustainability Appraisal carried out. This, put simply, is a way of looking at the impacts – both positive and negative – that any policies or proposals might have on South Staffordshire and the wider surrounding area. To find out more about this process visit the Council's website at www.sstaffs.gov.uk

Evidence Base

A number of background studies and assessments have been carried out to inform the development of the Core Strategy and to provide firm evidence in support of our proposals. Topic areas covered include housing, transport, employment, gypsies and travellers and flood risk issues. These background studies can also be viewed on the Council's website.

The story so far ...

We first consulted residents and stakeholders on the Core Strategy in 2006 when we published an 'Issues and Options' Paper. It looked at what the key issues were and at how development might be focused in the District. As a result of this consultation and further work looking at alternative options, it was concluded that the most appropriate approach is to spread growth across the District based on a 'settlement hierarchy'.

In 2008 further consultation took place to consider the inclusion of detailed development policies in the Core Strategy.



Sustainable Community Strategy

The Local Strategic Partnership prepares the Community Strategy. It brings together the needs, interest and aspirations of communities in South Staffordshire and is based around 6 key themes of Environmental Quality, Housing, Economic Vibrancy, Community Safety, Health and Well Being and Children and Young People. It is not just a strategy, but about finding new ways for partner organisations and the public to work together to meet the needs of our local communities.

The Local Development Framework will be one of the main ways in which key elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy will be delivered.

<http://lsp.sstaffs.gov.uk/>



South Staffordshire Council



Where are we now?

This consultation on the 'Preferred Spatial Strategy' for South Staffordshire is your main opportunity to be involved in the future planning for the District. The Core Strategy will set out the way in which our communities will develop and what it is hoped will be achieved in the next 20 years. It will also contain policies to guide future development. Your views are important and will make a valuable contribution.

What are the Issues?

The Core Strategy covers six themes and these are summarised briefly below. To see the bigger picture in greater detail and to see what we hope to achieve, please spend some time looking at the full Preferred Spatial Strategy document.

Environmental Quality

- Commitment to Green Belt
- Local character and distinctiveness
- Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment
- Climate change

Housing

- New housing for the District
- 3500 new houses between 2006 and 2026 – taking account of those built or in the pipeline this means we need to plan for at least 1450 new homes
- Locations based on our settlement hierarchy
- Need for affordable housing
- Planning for gypsy and traveller sites

Economic Vibrancy

- Safeguarding existing employment sites
- New employment land and opportunities including tourism and rural diversification
- Local transport between villages
- The role of Wolverhampton Airport

Community Safety

- High quality design and creating a safe living environment

Health and Well Being

- Protection and enhancement of green spaces, playing fields, leisure and recreation facilities
- Healthcare facilities



Children and Young People

- Improvement of services and facilities for children

Settlement Hierarchy

There is no single dominant settlement in South Staffordshire and it is often described as a 'community of communities'. A Settlement Hierarchy has been established, grouping the villages together to reflect their functional role and the facilities and services available.

Three categories of settlement hierarchy have been established and these are Main Services Villages, Local Services Villages and Small Service Villages. Development will be focussed in the Main Service Villages where there is the best range of essential services and facilities.

Main Service Villages

Bilbrook
Brewood
Cheslyn Hay
Codsall
Great Wyrley
Kinver
Penkridge
Perton
Wombourne

Local Service Villages

Coven
Essington
Featherstone
Huntington
Pattingham
Swindon
Wheaton Aston

Small Service Villages

Bednall
Bobbington
Bishops Wood
Dunston
Shareshill
Trysull



Your Views Count!

What happens next?

Following the consultation on the Preferred Spatial Strategy document, all comments received will be considered by the Council and a Core Strategy document will be prepared for submission to the Secretary of State.

There will be a further period for representations to allow time for any final changes to be made, if needed, to the Core Strategy prior to formal submission to the Secretary of State. An independent Inspector will examine the submitted Core Strategy and may recommend changes to the document.

We hope to adopt the Core Strategy late in 2010.

This leaflet sets out the key elements of the Preferred Spatial Strategy document. The main Core Strategy document and supporting Sustainability Appraisal, together with response forms, and further copies of this leaflet are available from the Council Offices, Codsall, or via the Council's website at www.sstaffs.gov.uk, and are also available at libraries and Parish Council Offices throughout the District. The Council has established a consultation facility at <http://sstaffs-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal> if you wish to view the document or make representations on-line.

We will be holding drop in consultation events, which you are invited to attend. Exhibition material will be on display and Council Officers will be on hand to answer your queries. See below for further information on events in your area:

| Date | Venue | Time |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Thursday 12th February | Wheaton Aston Village Hall | 3pm – 7pm |
| Wednesday 18th February | Acton Trussell Village Hall | 3pm – 7pm |
| Monday 23rd February | Featherstone Community Centre | 3pm – 7pm |
| Tuesday 24th February | Council Offices, Codsall | 3pm – 7pm |
| Tuesday 3rd March | Wombourne Civic Centre | 3pm – 7pm |
| Wednesday 11th March | Brewood Parish Council Offices | 3pm – 7pm |
| Thursday 12th March | Kinver Parish Rooms | 3pm – 7pm |
| Tuesday 17th March | Perton Community Centre | 3pm – 7pm |
| Wednesday 18th March | Great Wyrley Community Centre | 3pm – 7pm |
| Wednesday 25th March | Haling Dene Centre, Penkridge | 3pm – 7pm |
| Monday 30th March | Bobbington Village Hall | 3pm – 7pm |

Contact Us

If you would like further information please contact the Development Plans Team:

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A Sustainable Future for South Staffordshire

