

CABINET (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK) COMMITTEE

12 MARCH 2010

LITTLETON VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT REVISION 2009

REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGIC PLANNING

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RECENT REFERENCES:

[PHD246 – 'Draft Littleton Village Design Statement Revision' September 2009](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A draft Revised Village Design Statement (VDS) for Littleton was published for public consultation in October 2009. The procedures for producing Supplementary Planning Documents require formal consultation on draft Village Design Statements.

In order for this document to carry weight in the planning decision-making process, it needs to be adopted by the City Council as a 'Supplementary Planning Document'. This report summarises the comments received following public consultation on the draft Village Design Statement, and recommends adoption of the Design Guidelines contained within the VDS, subject to a number of changes following the public consultation, as outlined in the schedule of comments at Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That the 'Design Guidelines' of the Littleton Revised Village Design Statement, as proposed to be amended, be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document.
- 2 That an offer of up to £1,000 be authorised as a contribution towards the costs of publication of the final version of the VDS.
- 3 That the Littleton Village Design Statement Group be thanked for producing the Design Statement.

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### LITTLETON VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT (REVISED) 2009

#### DETAIL:

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The City Council encourages the production of Village Design Statements (VDS) by local communities so as to improve the quality of development in local areas and public involvement in the planning process. In order to carry weight in determining planning applications, such Statements need to be adopted by the City Council as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).
- 1.2 The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 set out various requirements which must be followed when producing and adopting SPD, including in relation to public consultation on draft proposals. Failure to meet these requirements could either prevent the City Council from adopting the Village Design Statement as SPD or lead to its validity being challenged.
- 1.3 There is an existing VDS for Littleton which was adopted in 2001 but this is now out of date and the VDS revision has been produced to replace it. The revised VDS now contains a statement of community involvement and a Sustainability Appraisal was also carried out on the draft revised VDS. Although the 2008 Regulations no longer include this as a requirement, it has been useful in helping to refine the revised VDS.

#### 2 PRODUCTION OF THE REVISED VDS

- 2.1 The revised VDS was prepared by a Village Design Statement team (including Parish Council representatives), in consultation with residents, the Parish Council and City Council officers. The original VDS was placed on the village website and the revision notified in the Parish Council newsletter, a report in the Hampshire Chronicle and a notice on the village web site. Work on the revision began in January 2008 and a formal public consultation was carried out on the draft revised document in October 2009.
- 2.2 Following the revision process, much of the original VDS remained. However, Chapter 7 (Planning Policies, Design Guidance and Additional Goals) is new. It is important to note, that it is the 'Design Guidelines' that it is recommended are adopted as SPD. These generally accord with, and supplement the saved policies of, the statutory Winchester District Local Plan Review 2006. It is not recommended that the 'Additional Goals' are adopted as part of the SPD as they tend to be aims and aspirations, rather than design guidance. Notwithstanding this, it is appropriate and normal for such matters to be

included within the VDS, as the aim is to influence all changes and development, not just those needing planning permission

### 3 SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS AND CHANGES PROPOSED TO REVISED VDS

3.1 The consultation period ran from 22<sup>nd</sup> October – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009. 9 responses were received. The Village Design Statement team considered the representations received and have agreed recommended responses to them with officers in the Strategic Planning Team at WCC.

3.2 As a result of the consultation, several changes are proposed to the draft revised VDS. The Schedule of Representations, attached at Appendix 1, contains a summary of the representations made, together with the response and – in the final column – any textual changes that are recommended as a result. The main changes proposed are as follows:

- Insertion of further text on water issues relating to groundwater and flooding
- Insertion of reference to Landscape Character Assessment
- New Design Guideline on Energy Efficiency and cross reference to this in the Sustainability Appraisal
- Insertion of new text explaining the planning status of the VDS

3.3 The draft version of the VDS has been updated to include the changes proposed in the Schedule. This final version is available for inspection in the Council Members room and on the website at:  
<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/ElectedRepresentatives/Committees/CommitteeMeeting.asp?id= SX9452-A784FDD4&committee=15084>

### 4 CONCLUSION

4.1 It is recommended that the changes outlined in the schedule attached as Appendix1 be agreed and that the 'Design Guidelines' in the Revised Littleton VDS 2009 be adopted by the Council as SPD, inclusive of the alterations attached in the schedule.

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

#### 5 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN (RELEVANCE TO):

5.1 Although not specifically mentioned in the Corporate Strategy, the production of VDS/NDSs will contribute to the 'High Quality Environment' aims of the Council, particularly with regard to protecting local distinctiveness and promoting the public realm.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 It is proposed that a contribution towards printing costs of up to £1000 for this stage of the VDS be offered. Funding exists within the Strategic Planning Division's budget for such an offer.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 7.1 None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Littleton Village Design Statement (Revised 2009) Summary of Comments and Responses

Appendix 2: Littleton Village Design Statement - due to its size, this document is attached for Committee Members, Group Leaders, Chairman of Principal Scrutiny Committee and Chairman of Environment Scrutiny Panel only. A copy has also been placed in the Members' Library and can be viewed on the Council's Website via the following link:

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/ElectedRepresentatives/Committees/CommitteeMeeting.asp?id= SX9452-A784FDD4&committee=15084>