

CAB1330
FOR DECISION
WARD(S): KINGS WORTHY

CABINET

11 October 2006

KINGS WORTHY VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT – RECOMMENDED ADOPTION

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB1090 – ‘Draft Kings Worthy Village Design Statement’ - 14 September 2005.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Kings Worthy Parish Council drafted a Village Design Statement (VDS) for Kings Worthy with the help of consultants (Atkins), appointed by the City Council and funded from Planning Delivery Grant, to assist villages in producing VDSs. In order to carry weight in the planning decision-making process this needs to be adopted by the City Council as a ‘Supplementary Planning Document’ (SPD).

The procedures for adoption require formal consultation on a draft Village Design Statement and this took place for 6 weeks in March/April 2006. This report summarises the comments received on the draft VDS (Appendix 1) and recommends that Cabinet adopts the VDS as a Supplementary Planning Document, subject to a number of changes (see Appendix 2).

The opportunity is also taken to update Members on progress with other Village/Neighbourhood Design Statements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That the ‘Design Guidelines’ in the Kings Worthy 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 document.
- 3 That Kings Worthy Parish Council be thanked for producing the Design Statement.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The City Council encourages the production of Village Design Statements and Neighbourhood Design Statements 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 (SPD). The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 set out various requirements which must be followed when producing and adopting SPD, including 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.
- 1.2 The Kings Worthy VDS has been produced over a number of years, initially by a VDS Group of local residents and more recently led by the Parish Council. The recent work on the VDS has been with the help of consultants (Atkins), appointed by the City Council to assist villages in producing VDSs, and funded from earlier Planning Delivery Grant. This is the first Village Design Statement to be presented to the Council for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document: previous VDSs and NDSs have been adopted under the previous planning policy system as Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- 1.3 15 VDS's have so far been adopted in Winchester District (West Meon, Micheldever, Curdrige & Curbridge, Soberton & Newtown, Boarhunt, Corhampton & Meonstoke, Crawley, Exton, Wickham, Itchen Abbas, Bramdean, Littleton, Swanmore, Upham and Sparsholt) and there are a number of others in preparation. In addition, 1 Neighbourhood Design Statement has been adopted (St Giles Hill, Winchester). This report summarises progress on the VDS/NDS's known to be in production and considers the Kings Worthy VDS. The VDS has been submitted to the City Council with a request that it is adopted as SPD, and this report recommends that this be agreed.

2 Progress on Village/Neighbourhood Design Statements in the District

- 2.1 The table below summarises the situation regarding VDS/NDSs in the District. Currently, 15 VDSs and 1 NDS have been adopted as SPG and another 7 are being prepared, including Kings Worthy. Some villages/neighbourhoods are/have investigated the possibility but decided not to progress a VDS/NDS.

<u>Village/Neighbourhood</u>	<u>Stage Reached With VDS</u>
Boarhunt	Adopted 2002
Bramdean	Adopted 2000
Compton & Shawford	Undertaking VDS as part of Parish Plan
Corhampton & Meonstoke	Adopted 2002
Crawley	Adopted 2001
Curdrige	Adopted 2002
Denmead	NDS drafted for officer comment 2006
Droxford	VDS drafted 2004, not taken forward
Exton	Adopted 2002
Hambledon	VDS started 2002, not taken forward
Itchen Abbas	Adopted 2001
Kings Worthy	Subject of this report
Littleton	Adopted 2001
Micheldever	Adopted 2002
New Alresford	NDS drafted for officer comment 2006
Olivers Battery	VDS work progressing
Otterbourne	VDS started 2002, delayed for Parish Plan
Shedfield	Investigated VDS, not progressing?
Soberton	Adopted 2002
South Wonston	Investigated VDS, not progressing?
Sparsholt	Adopted 1999
Swanmore	Adopted 2001
Upham	Adopted 1999
Warnford	Investigated VDS, not progressing?
West Meon	Adopted 2002
Wickham	Adopted 2001
Winchester – St Giles Hill	Adopted 2004
Winchester – Sleepers Hill	Investigated NDS, now subject of a LADS
Winchester – St Barnabas W.	Draft NDS published Sept 2006
Winchester – West Fulflood	NDS drafted for officer comment 2006

- 2.2 Offers of up to £1000 towards printing costs have previously been made to all villages/neighbourhoods completing a VDS/NDS, on adoption of the Statement. These grants were funded from the Planning Grants Reserve, but this funding is no longer available, following Cabinet's decision in 2005 that it would not be able to fund new VDS/NDSs. However, the Statements already in preparation for Denmead, Kings Worthy, Oliver's Battery, New Alresford, West Fulflood and St Barnabas West were treated as commitments and funding to assist their publication has been set aside.

3 Kings Worthy Village Design Statement

- 3.1 Kings Worthy's draft VDS covers the Parish of Kings Worthy. The VDS was initiated in 2000, following a village workshop. A VDS Working Party was set up consisting of residents from various parts of the community. After much useful work, some members of the Working Party moved away and

momentum was lost. The Parish Council took over the lead on the project in 2004/5 and set up a working party to take it forward. With help from a specialist consultant appointed by the City Council, the VDS was drafted and was published for formal consultation in March 2006. A more detailed summary of public consultation is included in Appendix 1 of the VDS.

3.2 Appendix 1 of this report summarises the comments received at the public consultation stage. Although only 7 people commented on the draft VDS, they raised a number of useful points. These have been considered by the Parish Council and City Council officers and Appendix 1 recommends a response to the comments made. This includes a number of recommended changes to the VDS, as follows:

- clarification of the maps and diagrams;
- updating to reflect the status of the document, when adopted;
- clarification of particular references in the document's text;
- amendments to the detail of some 'Design Guidelines' or 'Additional Goals';
- updating of Appendix 1, the consultation process.

3.3 The revised VDS, as recommended for adoption, is attached at Appendix 2, with the recommended changes shown in red text (a colour version of the document can be viewed on the Council's web site). The cross-references to Local Plan policies have been updated to reflect the adoption of the Local Plan Review. The VDS promotes a total of 22 'Design Guidelines' and 17 'Additional Goals'. It is only the Design Guidelines which supplement Local Plan policies and set out design guidance, so it is only these which should be adopted as part of the Supplementary Planning Document. The 'Additional Goals' are community aspirations that emerging during the VDS process, which are useful and important, but which will be pursued outside the planning process and should not form part of the SPD.

3.4 The Design Guidance proposed generally accords with the policies of the adopted District Local Plan (2006) and Government guidance. It also meets other requirements for adoption as a SPD, having been subject to appropriate consultation and a sustainability appraisal. It is, therefore, a VDS that officers recommend is appropriate for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document. Some of the policies proposed relate to matters that do not come within the scope of planning control. However, it is appropriate and normal for such matters to be included, as the aim is to influence all changes and development, not just those needing planning permission.

4 Conclusions

4.1 The Kings Worthy VDS requires approval by Cabinet if it is to be adopted by the City Council as a Supplementary Planning Document. Its Design Guidelines are in general accordance with the current District Local Plan (2006) and suitable for adoption as part of a Supplementary Planning Document. Cabinet is asked to adopt the VDS (excluding the 'Additional Goals' which should not form part of the SPD). In accordance with recent practice for other approved VDS/NDSs, it is recommended that the VDS Group be thanked for its work in producing the VDS and informed that the

Council will offer up to £1000 to assist with printing costs for the adopted document.

- 4.2 There are currently 16 adopted VDS/NDSs in the District, with others in various stages of preparation or under consideration. All of those adopted to date have been under the old planning system and have supplemented the previous (1998) Local Plan. Letters were therefore sent to all Parish Councils at the beginning of 2006 advising that thought should be given as to whether current VDSs needed updating. Officers are in discussion with a number of Parishes as to how this could happen.
- 4.3 VDS/NDSs are proving valuable in dealing with applications and are having an influence on the design of development proposals. It is, therefore, considered important that the interest and enthusiasm for undertaking VDS/NDSs within the District continues to be encouraged by the City Council.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

5 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 5.1 Although not specifically mentioned in the Corporate Strategy, the production of VDS/NDSs will contribute to the 'homes and environment' and 'green agenda' aims of the Council.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None.

APPENDICES:

1. Kings Worthy Village Design Statement – Analysis of Comments on Draft VDS
2. Kings Worthy Village Design Statement (as amended and proposed to be adopted). Note: a colour version of the document can be viewed on the Council's web site.