



WEST SOMERSET CORE STRATEGY

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(INCLUDING AMENDMENTS ARISING FROM THE
CHANGES TO THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
REGULATIONS IN 2008 AND 2009)

JUNE 2009

West Somerset Core Strategy - Statement of Community Engagement

PAS legal requirements table question:

Have you considered how community engagement will be programmed into the preparation of the development plan document?

Suggested evidence items:	Evidence to be provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Adopted statement of community involvement- November 2007 • The Core Strategy project plan
Relevant legislation, regulations and guidance:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act section19(3) • Regulation 25 • PPS12 paragraphs 4.19 – 4.29
Unless the statement of community involvement has been amended, you may need to set out any changes to community engagement as a result of changes in legislation.	The SCI was adopted prior to the amendment of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations in 2008 and 2009. A summary of consequent changes to the SCI arising from the amendments to the Regulations is set out below.

Summary of consequent amendments to the SCI arising from the 2008 and 2009 amendments to the *Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004*

- Para 3.9 et seq. (page 7) – Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is no longer to be applied to Supplementary Planning Documents, on the basis that they are supplementary to statutory development plan policies which have themselves been subject to SA.
- Para 3.11 (page 7) – the four statutory bodies to be consulted on the SA baseline study and scoping report have been reduced to three: Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency.
- Para 4.1 et seq. (page 9) and Diagram 2 (page 12) – The amended Regulations no longer requires two formal periods of consultation prior to examination, there being no “preferred option” stage. Instead, the local planning authority itself decides how to carry out the frontloading part of the process under Regulation 25. An outline of the process which West Somerset Council has adopted in order to satisfy Regulation 25 is set out below:-
 - An initial period for the identification of key issues following the formal notification to Specific and General Consultation Bodies as well as the business community and residents (June to September 2009)
 - A six week period of community and stakeholder engagement in March to May 2010 in order to identify policy options for addressing the issues identified in the initial stage
 - A period involving further engagement with stakeholders and the community as appropriate in order to develop the options into a draft preferred strategy
- A six week period of community and stakeholder engagement on the Preferred Strategy (September / October 2011)

- Preparation of the publication draft Core Strategy on the basis of outcomes from the frontloading exercise, SA report and national / regional policy.

In addition an LDF bulletin will be published as needed, but at least twice a year, to be made available on the Council's website www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk

- Para 4.4 (page 9) and Appendix A (page i) - the 2008 and 2009 amendments to the Regulations changed some of the specific consultation bodies.
 - The Highways Agency was deleted, being replaced by the Secretary of State of Transport.
 - The Strategic Health Authority was replaced by the Primary Care Trust for the area.
 - From 6th April 2010 the Homes and Communities Agency will be added to the list of specific consultation bodies.
- In addition, the 2008 amendments changed the definition of "general consultation bodies" to read as follows:
 - "(a) voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the authority's area,
 - (b) bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the authority's area,
 - (c) bodies which represent the interest of different religious groups in the authority's area,
 - (d) bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the authority's area, and;
 - (e) bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the authority's area."

The Council has prepared a list of stakeholders and individuals including bodies which fulfill these categories, other bodies the Council wishes to involve in the preparation of the Core Strategy and those who have asked to be involved in the process (see **Appendix 1**).

Para 4.6 (page 9) – The requirement for a preferred options stage has been removed by the 2008 amendments. A new stage has been inserted instead: "Publication" of the DPD, prior to its submission to the Secretary of State for examination. The Council should ensure that the version of the DPD which is published is sound, as further changes prior to Submission are not encouraged by the Regulations, and should only be made in exceptional circumstances.

The Council's proposals for fulfilling Regulation 25 as outlined above include (amongst other things) a six week informal consultation period on the draft preferred strategy as part of the continuous process of community engagement. This will inform the selection of the strategy for publication.

Para 4.9 (page 10) – Before submission takes place, a new stage of formal publication has been inserted by the amendments to the regulations.

Whilst the public and stakeholders may submit comments at submission stage in relation to the DPD's soundness, these are not considered by the Local Planning Authority, but are presented to the Inspector as part of the Examination documentation, with a summary of the main issues raised.

Summary of points (page 11)	See above comments.regarding the changes to consultation periods and publication / submission.
Diagram 2 (Page12)	The changes to the DPD preparation process outlined above are also reflected in the diagram. The formal Preferred Options consultation period does not feature in the amended Regulation 25, however an additional formal stage: "Publication" has been inserted prior to Submission. The Sustainability Appraisal report would be published in time to inform the preparation of and consultation on the informal preferred strategy consultation.
Para 5.1 (page 13) Para 5.8 (page 13) Diagram 3 (page 14)	These paragraphs (and diagram 3) should reflect the fact that the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents is no longer subject to Sustainability Appraisal.
Section 6 – Sustainability Appraisal	This section should reflect the fact that the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents is no longer subject to Sustainability Appraisal.
Para 6.3 (Page 15)	The four statutory bodies to be consulted on the SA have been reduced to three: Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency
Paras 6.4 to 6.12 (Pages 15 and 16)	The amendments made to the Local Development Regulations in 2008 and 2009 affect the procedure for managing the Sustainability Appraisal process set out in the SCI. At Regulation 25 stage, the options identified during the process will be subject to testing against the SA objectives. This assessment will be subject to community engagement at the time the Preferred Strategy (which this SA work has informed) is being consulted upon. The main SA report will be prepared as part of the preparations for the Publication Draft Core Strategy, this would be adjusted if necessary were there to be any changes to the Core Strategy between Publication and Submission.
Section 7 - involving the local community and stakeholders (pages 16 and 17)	The 2008 and 2009 amendments to the Local Development regulations have altered some of the stakeholders who must be consulted – see above in relation to paragraph 4.4 It should be noted that there are no Citizens' Panels within West Somerset, however there are four Area Panels which will be used as part of the community engagement process. An extensive database of stakeholders and members of the public has been compiled.

Para 7.7 (page 16)	The Equality Act 2006 (in respect of gender), the Disability Discrimination Amendment Act 2005 and The Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 should be added to this paragraph.
Para 8.3 and Figure 1 (page 18)	The governance process set out in Figure 1 requires some adjustment as a consequence of the Local Development Regulations amendments. The most important change is that the “Draft Consultation” entry is replaced by the Publication Draft which would be submitted to Full Council.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Staff time and resources appropriate to the Regulation 25 frontloading exercise have been identified and are available, being part of the time of the two LDF Prinicpal Planning Officers. • Maximum use has been planned of the Council's online consultation website www.westsomersetsays.com in order to minimise resource requirements |
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<p>Appendix A: Consultees – The 2008 and 2009 amendments to the Local Development Regulations have amended the specified consultees. See comments in relation to SCI paragraph 4.4 above.</p>
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Statement of Community Engagement – Appendix 1

Organisations and individuals Consulted

1. Specific Consultation Bodies	
Government Office for the South West	Porlock Parish Council
English Heritage	Sampford Brett Parish Council
Natural England	Selworthy & Minehead Without Parish
Environment Agency	Stogumber Parish Council
South West Strategic Leaders' Board	Stogursey Parish Council
SWRDA	Timberscombe Parish Council
Somerset County Council	Upton Parish Council
Devon County Council	Watchet Town Council
Sedgemoor District Council	Lydeard St Lawrence Parish Council
Taunton Deane Borough Council	Tolland Parish Council
Exmoor National Park Authority	Wiveliscombe Parish Council
North Devon District Council	Fitzhead Parish Council
Mid Devon District Council	Chipstable Parish Council
Somerset Strategic Partnership	Lynton and Lynmouth PC
Somerset Supporting People Partnership	Challacombe PC
Somerset PCT	Brayford PC
Somerset Coast Primary Care Trust	North Molton PC
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	Twitchen Parish Council
British Telecom PLC	Molland Parish Council
Commpro Telecommunications, Northern Office	West Anstey Parish Council
Mobile Operators Association (MOA)	East Anstey Parish Council
Mono Consultants Ltd.	Combe Martin Parish Council
T-Mobile (UK) Ltd	West Bagborough Parish Council
O2 (UK) Ltd	West Quantoxhead Parish Council
Orange Personal Communications	Williton Parish Council
Vodafone Ltd	Winsford Parish Council
Western Power Distribution	Withycombe Parish Council
Wales and West Utilities	Withypool & Hawkridge Parish Council
RWE npower renewables	Wootton Courtenay Parish Council
EDF Energy	East Quantoxhead Parish Meeting
National Grid UK Transmission, Land and Development Asset Protection Team	Elworthy Parish Meeting
National Grid	Oare Parish Meeting
British Transco	Skilgate Parish Meeting
South West Water	Strington Parish Meeting
Wessex Water	Treborough Parish Meeting
Bicknoller Parish Council	Fiddington Parish Council
Brompton Ralph Parish Council	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Brompton Regis Parish Council	Over Stowey Parish Council
Brushford Parish Council	Stockland Bristol PC
Carhampton Parish Council	Otterhampton Parish Council
Clatworthy Parish Council	Morebath Parish Council
Crowcombe Parish Council	Oakford Parish Council
Cutcombe Parish Council	Countisbury PC
Dulverton Town Council	Kilve Parish Council
Dunster Parish Council	Luccombe Parish Council
Exford Parish Council	Luxborough Parish Council
Exmoor Parish Council	Minehead Town Council
Exton Parish Clerk	Monksilver Parish Council
Holford Parish Council	Nettlecombe Parish Council
Huish Champflower Parish Council	Homes and Communities Agency (from 6 th April 2010)

2. General Consultation Bodies	
2a. Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the authority's area	
The West Somerset Initiative	Seaward Way Community Group
Minehead Conservation Society	Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership
POPP team leader, Age Concern Somerset	West Somerset and Exmoor Bridleways Association
Somerset Playing Fields Association	Community Council for Somerset
Rural Women's Network c/o Council for Somerset	Somerset Gay Health
Age Concern Somerset	Standing Conference of Somerset Womens' Organisations
Young Somerset	Forum 21
Ecos Trust	Friends of Watchet Station
Single Parent Action Network	Scout movement and over 60 club
Cycle Somerset	Engage (formerly W Somerset CVS)
West Somerset Seniors' Forum	Transition Minehead and Alcombe
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Somerset County Federation of Womens' Institutes
The Woodcombe Society	Somerset Association of Local Councils
West Somerset LETS Group	West Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau
Williton Regeneration Partnership	CPRE, West Somerset District Committee
The Ramblers	CPRE South West
Magna Tenants Panel	RSPB SWRO
FWAG South West England Office	The Exmoor Society
10 Parishes	
2b. Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the authority's area.	
Equality South West	Traveller Education Service
The Somerset Romany Gypsy Council	Somerset Black Development Agency
Somerset Racial Equality Council	Friends, Families and Travellers
2c. Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the authority's area	
Faithnet South West	Property Officer and Secretary of the Houses and Glebe Committee of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Board of Finance
Minehead Baptist Church	West Somerset Methodist Circuit
Somerset Circuit of Jehovah Witnesses	Catholic Church, Clifton Diocese
2d. Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the authority's area	
Compass Disability Services	Taunton and District Mencap Society
Open Daws - Disabled Activities in West Somerset	Somerset Cancer Care, Minehead West Somerset Group
West Somerset Disability Association	Mind in West Somerset
2e. Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the authority's area	
Somerset Chamber of Commerce	West Somerset Business Forum
Federation of Small Businesses, Taunton and District	Minehead Chamber of Trade
Country Land and Business Association – South West	Road Haulage Association Bristol/Avonmouth, Cornwall, Dorset, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire
South West Tourism Ltd	Regen SW
Business Link Somerset	WACET

3. Other parties who have asked to be consulted over West Somerset LDF matters

Developers, planning consultants and landowners.

Land and Planning division Greenslade Taylor Hunt	Wilkie, May & Tuckwood
Strategic Land Partnerships	Richardsons
Acorus Rural Property Services Ltd	Sherwood Property Management
DPDS	Quantic Properties (Axminster) Limited
Swift LG Ltd	McCarthy & Stone
White Young Green Planning	Pegasus Retirement Homes
Rapleys	Persimmon Homes (South West) Ltd
Home Builders Federation	Taylor Woodrow Strategic Developments
Barratt Homes Ltd (Exeter Office)	West of England Developments Ltd
Chanin & Thomas	Mono Consultants Ltd
Baker Associates	Fulfords Land & Planning
Barton Willmore	Summerfield Developments (SW) Ltd
Atkins	ENTEC UK Ltd
Adams Holmes Associates For Orange Personal Communications Services Ltd	Planning and Regeneration Department Cluttons LLP
Entec UK Ltd For the Crown Estate	Alder King Planning Consultants
Savills	Home Builders Federation
CSJ Planning Consultants	Colliers CRE
Peacock and Smith Ltd	PFA consulting
Stride Treglown	Persimmon Special Projects Western
Fusion Online Limited	Redrow Homes
Midas Homes	Planning and Development Drivers Jonas
Russell Construction	Terence O'Rourke
	LDA Design
Strongvox	Gadd Homes Ltd
Bellway Homes South West	Clarke Willmott For Renscombe Properties Ltd
Bovis Homes Ltd	Abbey Manor Developments Ltd
Countryside Properties	Carver Knowles
Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners	GVA Grimley Ltd
Exmoor Properties Ltd	Harmers Planning

Private individuals

Mrs S Rushent	Mrs CM Hepper
Mr M Yendole	Ms Tina Triggs
Mr G Punnerr	Ms H Wade
Mr John Conder	Mr J White
Mr G Goddard	Mr & Mrs AA Ross
Mrs S Hull	Mrs L Whetlor
Ms L Weaver	Ms Janet Manley
Cllr J Shortland	Mr & Mrs C Lennon-Wood
Ms J Craig	Mr A M Goodman
Mr & Mrs B Biggs	Mrs A Goodman
Mrs J Taunton	Mr R Harbour
Mr C Wood & Mrs J Lennon-Wood	

Registered Social Landlords

South West RSL Planning Consortium c/o Tetlow King Planning	Hastoe Housing Association Ltd
Magna HA	Sanctuary Housing Association

Businesses

Webberbus Ltd	First Buses
Butlins	Direct Pumps & Tanks Ltd
The Gliddon Group	West Somerset Railway Plc
St Regis Paper Company Head Office	
National interest groups	
The National Trust	The Camping and Caravanning Club
CAMRA	Lawn Tennis Association
The Victorian Society	The Theatres Trust
Estates and Planning Officer, Trinity House Lighthouse Service	The Countryside Alliance
The British Wind Energy Association	National Farmers' Union Agriculture House
Ancient Monument Society	The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
SUSTRANS	Inland Waterways Association
Friends of the Earth	
National Government Departments and agencies	
Forestry Commission England	NHPAU
Highways Agency	ADAS
Job Centre Plus	The Home Office
Ministry of Defence - Defence Estates Head Office	The Homes and Communities Agency
Ministry of Justice	Network Rail
Office of Government Commerce	The Health and Safety Executive
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Department for Children, Schools and Families
Local and regional agencies and other organisations	
The South West Strategic Health Authority	Somerset Rural Youth Project
West Somerset Strategic Partnership	Accessible Transport West Somerset
Somerset Learning and Skills Council	UNISON South West
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	Artlife
West Somerset Community College	Minehead Football Club
Local Service Team West Somerset, Wellington and Wiveliscombe	Minehead Area Panel
Severn Estuary Partnership	Williton Watchet and Quantocks Area Panel
Quantocks Joint Advisory Committee	Dunster Area Panel
Sustainable Somerset Group	Exmoor Area Panel
Visit Exmoor	DIRECT
Sport England South West	