



Eden Local Development Framework

Statement of Consultation for Eden's 'Accessible and Inclusive Environment' Supplementary Planning Document

12 January 2007

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1 Introduction

This document describes the methods of consultation that the Council adopted during the production of the 'Access and Inclusive Environment' Supplementary Planning Document, together with the details of the comments received and any changes that we made as a result of those comments.

2 Pre-consultation

This document was produced to supplement local plan policies and in response to Government guidance contained in 'Planning and Access for Disabled People': A Good Practice Guide by Drivers Jonas for the Office of The Deputy Prime Minister. March 2003. The Eden 'Access for All' Forum were consulted at all stages and their comments helped to formulate the resulting supplementary policies.

Consultation on the 'Scoping Report' took place during September and October 2005.

3 Consultation under Regulation 17

This document was considered and approved, by Environment Committee on the 9th June 2005 after a period of consultation with interested parties, to be used as a guide for development. Since then, a 'Scoping report', an 'Options Appraisal' and a 'Sustainability Appraisal' on the Supplementary Planning Document have been completed. Consultation on the 'Scoping Report' took place during September and October 2005.

The Sustainability Appraisal was carried out by Entec UK Ltd, private planning consultants, over a period of 9 months from September 2005 to July 2006. A number of workshop sessions were held during the appraisal and the final report contained a number of 'Sustainability Appraisal Recommendations' for the SPD. These have been considered and amendments have been incorporated in the revised Supplementary Planning Document. The amendments are summarised below:-

Section 3 (Regional Planning Policy) has been re-drafted to reflect the changes in the 'Cumbria and Lake District Joint Structure Plan 2001-2016' and to outline proposed changes in the structure of regional planning.

Section 8 (Supplementary Policies) has been amended, in response to comments received following the Scoping Report, Options Appraisal and Sustainability Appraisal, as follows:

1. Inclusive Access for All

The Council will require that development proposals, *where not negatively affecting a listed building*, by virtue of their location and physical features meet the highest standards of accessibility and inclusion so that all potential users, regardless of disability, age or gender can use them safely and easily.

2. Inclusive Access to All Buildings used by the Public

Development Proposals.....alternative methods of providing the service. *Innovative solutions should be sought to bring appropriate access to listed/historic buildings which do not readily adapt to the general concepts of this policy.*

4. Public Transport Infrastructure

Remove 'whenever feasible' in line 4.

6. Access to Workplaces

The Council will require.....public reception areas. *Innovative solutions should be sought when considering the impact on the historic environment.*

8. Sports Facilities, Arts and Leisure Buildings, Hotel and Tourist Facilities

When considering proposals.....English Tourism Council. *English Heritage, in their guide 'Easy Access to Historic Buildings', shows that access can be achieved when creative and innovative solutions are implemented.*

Section 9.3 (Residential) has also been amended in response to comments made in 'Planning Appeal Decision' on Land adjacent to The Woodlands, Bridge Lane, Penrith. At Para. 7 the wording has been changed to read:-

*‘Where 4 or more upper floor flats are served by a common stairway it is **recommended** that a key-holder or passenger lift access should be provided, not only for the occupants but also, for visitors or guests with mobility impairment.*

Consultation has taken place, during the scoping exercise, with specific consultees but full consultation is now invited on the amended Supplementary Planning Document.

Appendix 1

Scoping Report Consultation Letter

Your ref:
Our ref: NW/PLP
Enquiries to: Neil Wallace/Chris Hoban
Direct dial: 01768 212159

Date: 5 September 2005

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Statutory Consultees

Dear Sir / Madam

Supplementary Planning Document – Sustainability Appraisal

Eden District Council is currently in the process of introducing a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for 'An Accessible and Inclusive Environment'. This document aims to demonstrate Eden District Council's commitment to meeting the needs of disabled people, by promoting improvements to the natural and built environments that address the key issues of social exclusion and poor accessibility.

This report explains the purpose of Sustainability Appraisals and indicates how your comments can successfully contribute to the process of sustainable development. Each chapter has reference to an introduction and a methodology undertaken, which will hopefully enable the reader to measure the scope and content of the report.

The purpose of this correspondence is therefore to:

- i) Inform you that the work for the Supplementary Planning Document is now under way;
- ii) Ask you for any comments you would like to make regarding the scope, content and production of the associated Sustainability Appraisal
- iii) Ensure the relevant stakeholders have contributed to the process

The procedure for the preparation of and consultation in respect of SPD's is set out by legislation and in due course will be in accordance with the Council's emerging Statement of Community Involvement, on which separate consultation exercises are being carried out. Could I therefore please ask you to restrict any comments on the SPD to the scope, content, design of the SPD document itself rather than the consultation process.

An Accessible and Inclusive Environment SPD Consultation Statement
20 December 2006

Yours faithfully

R M Atkinson
Director of Policy & Performance

Appendix 2

Consultees on Scoping Report:

An Accessible & Inclusive Environment

Statutory:

Countryside Agency
English Heritage
English Nature
Environment Agency

(All sent a hard copy on 5 September 2005 with signed covering letter)

Non-statutory:

Development Control – Gwyn Clark
Environmental Health (request to inform all sections)
Cumbria County Council – Alex McKenzie
Government Office North West – Chris Bamber

(All emailed a copy on 5 September 2005)

Department of Policy and Performance
Eden District Council
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