

Introduction

When the Borough Council decided to prepare a replacement Local Plan it also became necessary to review all the Supplementary Planning Guidance which the Council had previously adopted. In line with the guidance set out in PPGN 12 - Development Plans and Regional Planning Guidance, paragraphs 3.18 and 3.19, it was decided that, in order to achieve a wide consultation, the revision would run alongside the preparation of the Local Plan so the publicity exercises for both documents would coincide. Consequently the first draft of the proposed Supplementary Planning Guidance was publicised alongside the Deposit Draft of the Local Plan.

A number of detailed responses were made to that consultation and as a result the text of the consultation the text of the guidance has been rewritten in a more advisory style. A number of detailed policies have been deleted from the guidance and these have been publicised as proposed changes to the deposit Local Plan. The revised Supplementary Planning Guidance was made available for a further consultation period. The outcome of this consultation was reported to the Planning Committee on 4 April 2002. The Committee formally adopted the Supplementary Planning Guidance.

A separate Annex to the Supplementary Planning Guidance contains details of consultations undertaken, representations received and letters of response.

The Oadby and Wigston Local Plan provides a clear and concise framework for all development control decisions. The role of Supplementary Planning Guidance is subordinate to the Local Plan and the advice within it is intended to supplement and expand on the Local Plan policies. The Borough Council makes use of a number of standards and codes of practice derived from Central Government, County Council and other publications in order to achieve a consistent approach to decision making but these tests have to be used flexibly because of the wide variation in site conditions and locations which can occur. However the Borough Council will have regard to ongoing government and other research programs in order to ensure that the codes it uses are as up to date and relevant as possible.

It is not considered appropriate for these standards and codes to be included in the Local Plan because they can become out of date very rapidly and because they are too precisely defined to be used in such a prescriptive way.

References to the relevant proposals of the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan are highlighted in bold in the text.

M R Woods
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