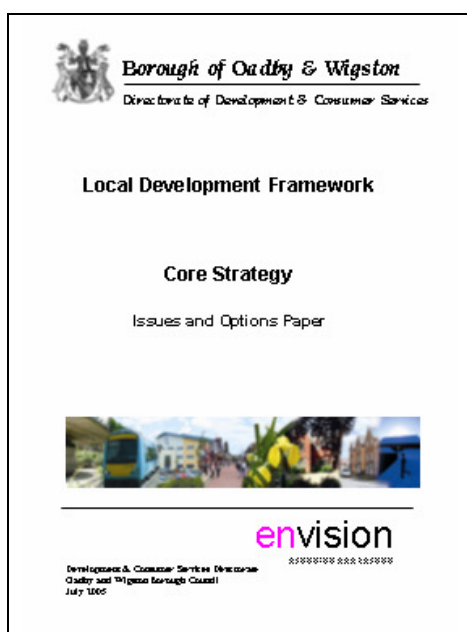


5 Consultations on the Issues and Options Paper (July/August 2005)



5.1 Consultation Document: Core Strategy. Issues and Options Paper

Consultation Dates: July to 19th August 2005

5.2 Introduction

The Issues and Options Paper set out ten key Issues and Options which could be included in the Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy. Each key issue had a number of options and the Council sought views on the most suitable option.

5.3 Who was consulted?

Consultation letters were sent to those on the Consultation database. These consultees are listed in Appendix A1. The letters sent out are in Appendices A2 and A3. The first letter was sent to statutory consultees while the second went to non-statutory consultees.

The consultation documents were placed in libraries and Council offices in the Borough so that members of the public could see them. They were also available on the Council's website.

A travelling display was taken around the Borough. The dates were not published in advance as it was considered better use the display on days when weather was favourable to achieve the best response.

In February 2006 a presentation was given at Senior Citizens' Forum. The slides used are at Appendix A8.

5.4 How were people consulted?

Consultation letters were sent to those on the Consultations database. The Issues and Options Paper document and leaflets were distributed to libraries and Council Offices. A consultation event was held. A travelling display was taken around the Borough. A senior citizens event was also held.

5.5 What were the main issues raised in the consultation responses?

Appendix A10 summarises the comments made about each Key Issue, how these were ranked and sets out a brief officer response about how these comments will be addressed in the Preferred Options Reports.

Comments were also received which related specifically to individual sites within the Borough, mainly for residential and employment development. These sites will be assessed, along with other potential sites as part of the Allocations Development Plan Document.

In summary, the main issues raised at this consultation stage are as follows:

- The timeframe for the plan should be in line with the emerging Regional Plan;
- The preferred option for locating new development in the Borough was the use of brownfield sites and one urban fringe, closely followed by brownfield redevelopment and several brownfield site as opposed to a new settlement, brownfield only or urban fringe only;
- There was support for the allocation of a strategic employment site but not for the safeguarding of sites specifically for employment use
- There was strong favour for developing the centres of each of the three towns in the way which best met their individual needs through the development of individual action plans. Mixed uses near the town centres also had support
- The distribution of recreation and leisure facilities around the Borough was favoured over concentration in a particular area
- The Core Strategy should include policies to ensure the protection and enhancement of Green Wedges
- Non-motorised methods of transport have not been sufficiently dealt with. Policies should be included that lead to the creation of new footpaths and cycle ways
- Support for special consideration of Kilby Bridge especially the revitalisation of the canal and protection and enhancement of the Kilby-Foxton Canal SSSI

5.6 How did the Borough Council address these issues?

The responses received to this Issues and Options Paper (Appendix A10) had an important influence on the Core Strategy and aided the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper. The Borough Council addressed the main issues in its preparation of the Preferred Options Report as follows:

- The timeframe for the Core Strategy will be brought in line with the emerging Regional Plan.
- The Council's strategy for new development in the Borough will seek to concentrate development on brownfield land first and allocate one urban fringe site to meet the housing needs of the Borough where necessary in the plan period
- The need for a strategic employment site has been carried forward from the Leicester and Leicestershire Structure Plan. The Council's evidence base does not suggest at this stage that it will be necessary to allocate a strategic employment site. General employment development sites will be allocated through the Allocations Development Plan Document.

- Town Centre Masterplans will be prepared for each of the Borough's centres. This will identify each centres appropriate role and opportunities for mixed use development.
- The Council is preparing a Play and Open Space study which should help to develop a strategy for delivering a wide distribution of recreation and leisure facilities around the Borough
- It is agreed that the protection and management of the Borough's Green Wedges has been unintentionally overlooked through this consultation. This will be rectified through the preferred options document.
- It is agreed that non-motorised methods of transport has not been sufficiently dealt with and this will be rectified through the preferred options document.
- A strategy for the protection and revitalisation of the Kilby-Foxton Canal SSSI and the Grand Union Canal as well as sympathetic development around the hamlet of Kilby Bridge in relation to leisure and tourism will be developed through the preferred options document