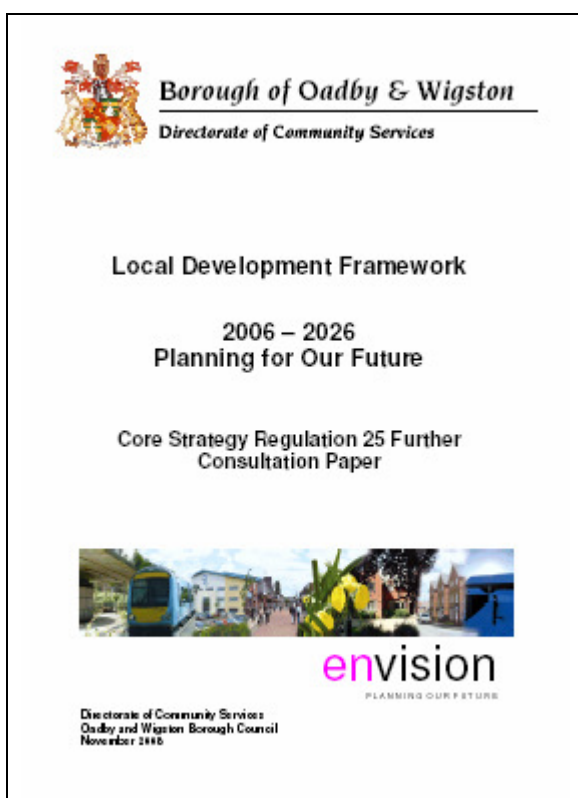


8 Consultation on the Draft Core Strategy (November/January 2008-09)



8.1 Consultation Document: The Local Development Framework 2006 – 2026 Planning for Our Future (Core Strategy Regulation 25 Further Consultation Paper) November 2008

Consultation Dates: From 28th November 2008 until 23rd January 2009. Comments could be made online, by post to the Council Offices, by fax and by email.

It was made available at the Council Offices, local town centre libraries, Brocks Hill Environment Centre and Helping Hands Centres. It was also available on the Council's website.

8.2 Who was consulted?

A list of consultees is given at Appendix D1.

8.3 How were people consulted?

A travelling display and roadshows were used to consult people. In addition, a leaflet was delivered to every household in the Borough, promoting the consultation, inviting comments and setting out ways to respond. Pictures of the roadshow are shown below.



(please note other photographs are missing from this web based version due to file size issues)

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

To help refine the Council's options and take account of the amendments to the Town and Country Planning Act that came into force in June 2008 a further stage of consultation was carried out prior to submission of the Core Strategy.

A summary of the main comments and the Council's responses is given here. A fuller summary detailing each representation is provided at Appendix D7.

Again many comments received were expressions of interest for individual housing and employment sites within the Borough. These sites will be assessed, along with other potential sites as part of the Allocations Development Plan Document.

The main issues raised at this consultation stage are as follows:

- How the Borough fits within the wider south-Leicestershire context is still not clear. Important omissions such as relationship to Leicester City and The University of Leicester. Recommend changes be made to the spatial portrait to address this.
- The retail hierarchy is not comprehensive enough and should be amended
- Many comments relate to issues of clarity, omissions and suggested references to source material and other evidence to be take into account
- The draft policies are not sufficient spatial in nature
- A need to strengthen references to necessary infrastructure and include an implementation plan
- Need to include an over arching Green Infrastructure policy based on robust evidence
- Need to include the likely level of housing/employment provision to be provided in any urban extension
- There was broad agreement with the spatial vision and strategic objectives albeit there were some issues of clarity/omission raised
- Policy and strategy in relation to more sustainable transport modes needs to be strengthened

- Affordable housing policy and strategy not robust enough, needs further consideration
- The inclusion of strategic development control policies do not fit well and give rise to confusion

8.5 How did the Borough Council address these issues?

This document and the comments received represented an important stage in developing the vision, spatial objectives and policies within the Core Strategy. The comments from this last stage of consultation have helped to formulate the Publication version of the Core Strategy.

The Borough Council incorporated the main issues raised into the submission draft of the Core Strategy as follows:

- The spatial portrait has been comprehensively rewritten to ensure that there is a clear demonstration of what role the Borough has in south Leicestershire, in particular its significance to the Leicester Principal Urban Area. To complement this a report has been prepared which summarises elements of existing reports and emergent development plan documents in order to express the strategic planning context of the Leicester Principal Urban Area
- The retail hierarchy was reviewed, redefined and expanded to include those shopping areas outside the Borough's boundary that have an influence on the Borough and its residents. Again this was related to demonstrating a clear understanding of how the Borough fits within a wider local context
- Where comments received related to issues of clarity, omissions and suggested references to source material and other evidence to be taken into account these have been incorporated into the submission Core Strategy
- All the draft policies have been revisited in order to improve their spatial nature
- A Local Infrastructure Plan has been created in consultation with the Local Strategic Partnership and with reference to the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area Authorities Growth Infrastructure Plan
- An Oadby and Wigston Green Infrastructure Strategy has been prepared and this was used to inform the formulation of an over arching Green Infrastructure policy
- The submission Core Strategy policies on housing and employment have been reviewed to include reference to the likely level of housing/employment provision to be provided in any urban extension
- As there was broad agreement with the spatial vision and strategic objectives these have not been reviewed apart from where there were issues of clarity/omission raised
- An Assessment of Highways and Transportation Implications for South Leicestershire study was prepared and this was used to inform the formulation of stronger transport related policies
- An Affordable Housing Viability Assessment was carried out and this was used to inform the formulation of updated affordable housing policy and strategy within the submission Core Strategy

The strategic development control policies section of the draft Core Strategy has been removed and subsumed into the submission Core Strategy where appropriate.