

**BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION****PRE-HEARING MEETING NOTE ON NEW INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR THE  
INSPECTOR AND OTHER PARTIES 18 NOVEMBER 2011****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 At the Pre-Hearing Meeting on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011 the Council will make available to the Inspector and other parties updated information, principally relating to the Core Strategy evidence base. This information, which is listed below, is intended to assist the Inspector and other parties in their preparation for the Examination Hearings in January 2012. All of the information is included in the updated Core Documents List and either is publicly available now or will be made publicly available on the Council's website by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011. This will provide all relevant parties with the opportunity to consider and comment on it as part of the process of preparing for the Hearings. The Core Documents List reference number is included in this note. The documents to be made available are as follows:

1. Adopted Bristol Core Strategy
2. Bath Compensatory Storage Study (Phase 1) Final Report
3. Update to the Sustainability Appraisal (to take account of the above study)
4. Updated Infrastructure Delivery Programme
5. Update note on Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
6. Legal Compliance Self-Assessment

A brief explanation of the purpose of this information or the reasons for giving it to the Inspector is outlined below.

**2.0 PURPOSE OF UPDATED INFORMATION**Adopted Bristol Core Strategy (CD3/15)

2.1 A hard copy of the Bristol Core Strategy (Adopted June 2011) is being supplied in response to the Inspector's request. The Inspector's Examination Report into the Bristol Core Strategy is also on the Core Document List (CD3/13).

Bath Compensatory Storage Study (Phase 1) (CD4/FR35) and Updated Sustainability Appraisal (CD4/A20)

2.2 The Flood Risk Management Strategy Report (CD4/FR2) produced by Atkins in June 2010 identified that the preferred solution to allow development of sites within Bath, that lie below the 1% AEP (1 in 100 year) +20% (climate change allowance) flood level, would be a combination of on-site flood defences and provision of a compensatory storage area upstream of Bath. The Bath Compensatory Storage Study has been commissioned by Bath and North East Somerset Council to investigate the provision of compensatory storage upstream of Bath city centre to balance future loss of flood storage volume when planned developments take place. The final report outlining the conclusions of the first phase of this study has recently

been published and is made available to the Inspector and other parties. This phase of the study is an assessment of the technical feasibility of a number of potential sites. The Council considers that the report is important evidence that should inform the Examination Hearings.

- 2.3 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the submission Core Strategy was updated in September 2011 to take account of the Proposed Changes to the Core Strategy published for consultation (see CD4/A17). As required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive and associated Regulations this version of the SA was based upon and took account of the most up to date information available at that time. However, since publication of the SA in September 2011 the Bath Compensatory Storage Study (Phase 1) Report has been made available. Whilst the Council considers that the published SA complies with the SEA Directive and Regulations it has updated the SA to take account of the latest evidence for reasons of completeness and in order to assist the Inspector and other parties. The amendments to the SA are shown in the updated version (see CD4/A20). The changes relate to the Sustainability Appraisal Report (Summary of Baseline Data and Summary of Significant Effects of Bath Spatial Strategy policy) and Annex D – Core Strategy Policy Appraisal Matrices (Bath Spatial Strategy policy).

#### Updated Infrastructure Delivery Programme (CD4/I6)

- 2.4 The Infrastructure Delivery Programme has been updated to ensure that the Inspector and other parties have the latest information relating to infrastructure in advance of the Examination Hearings. This includes updates on various national and sub-regional funding mechanisms and announcements from Government relating to infrastructure, and new evidence produced by the Council such as the Bath Compensation Storage Study (Phase 1) Report.
- 2.5 Following a briefing session with infrastructure providers and stakeholders in October, the Council has received and included updates on infrastructure requirements and projects from the following stakeholders:
- British Waterways
  - Great Western Ambulance
  - Environment Agency
  - National Grid
  - Network Rail
  - Wessex Water
  - Western Power Distribution
  - Woodland Trust
  - Various Council departments
- 2.6 The IDP has also been reformatted to make it clearer what infrastructure items are considered to be key to the delivery of the Core Strategy and the phasing of those items. Site specific infrastructure highlighted by the SHLAA has also been added.

Update note on the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)  
(CD4/H16)

- 2.7 The SHLAA note updates the Inspector and other parties on notable changes to the future housing supply position since the SHLAA was published in May 2011 in terms of planning applications, decisions, appeals, changes in the status of sites yet to enter the planning system and site capacities. It is not a full SHLAA review but will indicate some of the likely changes that will be made to the SHLAA when it is next published at the end of the monitoring year (i.e. 31st March 2012). The changes do not fundamentally alter the SHLAA's conclusions in relation to land supply for the next 5 years and for the plan period as a whole. However, the Council considers that it is useful and helpful for the latest monitoring information to be made available for the Hearings.

Legal Compliance Self-Assessment (CD5/29)

- 2.8 The Council has already made publicly available its Core Strategy Soundness Self-Assessment (CD6/S1). The Council has now finalised the Legal Compliance Self-Assessment following the format recommended by the Planning Advisory Service. This self-assessment has been prepared in order to assist both the Inspector and other parties.