



**South Hams
District Council**

South Hams District Council Local Development Framework

Rural Areas DPD (Issues & Options Stage)

July 2007

Soundness Self-Assessment

Forward Planning
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Draft Version

Introduction

The following tables are based upon the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) soundness self-assessment toolkit. They cover the pre-production, and issues and options stages of Development Plan Document (DPD) preparation. The self-assessment will be finalised at the Submission stage.

The purpose of this self-assessment is to demonstrate how the Council has considered the Tests of Soundness, Statutory requirements and other relevant guidance, throughout the production of a DPD.

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Stage 1: Pre-production

| Activity | Statutory Requirement | Evidence provided |
|---|--|---|
| Is the DPD identified in the LPA's adopted LDS? | The Act s19(1) | <i>The Rural Areas DPD is identified in the latest revision of the LDS which came into effect April 2007.</i> |
| Have you recorded the commencement of the DPD? | | <i>The revised LDS (April 2007) sets out the Issues & Options Stage will commence in July 2007 (pre-production has occurred before this date).</i> |
| Have any details set out in the LDS such as the role, rationale or scope of the DPD been met? | | <i>The role, rationale and scope of the Rural Areas DPD is set out in the current LDS (April 2007), p.21.</i> |
| Is baseline information being collected and evidence being gathered to set the framework for the SA? | The Act s19(5) | <i>Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment of South Hams Community Strategy & Local Development Framework – Scoping Report (April 2005). This document set out the key sustainability issues, SA framework and objectives for the South Hams to be addressed through SA, Community Strategy and LDF.</i> |
| Have you consulted the four statutory environment consultation bodies for five weeks on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be included in the SA Report? | Regulations 9 and 13 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 specify the consultation procedures for plans requiring SEA. | <i>Consultation documents and covering letters were sent to Environment Agency, Countryside Agency, English Heritage and English Nature and other key stakeholders seeking their views for a 5 week consultation period (April-May 2005). The aim was to ensure that that all relevant issues were identified and discussed at an early stage of the process.</i> |

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Stage 2: Issues and options (Regulation 25 consultation)

| Activity | Statutory Requirement | Evidence provided |
|--|---|---|
| Have the “specific consultation bodies” been consulted – or are there any of these bodies which, because of the nature of this DPD, do not need to be consulted at this stage? | Regulation 25(1)(a) [Specific Consultation Bodies are defined in Regulation 1] | <i>A Statement of Consultation (Regulation 28 Statement) will be prepared setting out who was consulted how and when. All consultation bodies will receive appropriate documentation and covering letters.</i> |
| Have the “general consultation bodies” been identified and consulted - and are those bodies consulted consistent with the approach set out in the adopted SCI? | Regulation 25(1)(b) [General Consultation Bodies are defined in Regulation 1] | <i>Bodies consulted at Issues and Options stage will be set out in a Statement of Consultation (Regulation 28 Statement). Those bodies consulted are consistent with the list in the adopted SCI, appendix B. Consultation activities are consistent with tables A & B of the adopted SCI. Appropriate documents and covering letter sent to consultation bodies.</i> |
| Does the consultation contribute to the development and sustainability appraisal of the options? | The Act s19(5) | <i>The questionnaire and document set out a range of applicable options on the identified issues. SA/ SEA of the LDF Scoping Report (April 2005) and the SA/SEA of the Issues and Options stage appraises the relevant options.</i> |
| Are you keeping a record of the bodies being consulted; how they are being consulted, and the main issues they have raised? | Regulation 28(1)(c) | <i>Will be set out in the Statement of Consultation (Regulation 28 Statement) and consultation audit in line with the methods of involvement set out in the adopted SCI.</i> |
| Are you developing a framework for monitoring the effects of the DPD? | | <i>SA/ SEA of the LDF Scoping Report (April 2005). The issue will be developed in the December 2007 AMR and is identified in the document pro formas of the LDS.</i> |
| Have you arranged to send to the GO copies of documents used in consultation? | Not statutory, but will assist the later stages where the Secretary of State has a statutory role | <i>GOSW sent copies of all documents with a covering letter.</i> |