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South Hams District Council Local Development Framework

**Totnes/Dartington DPD (Preferred Options Stage)
October 2007**

Soundness Self-Assessment

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Introduction

The following tables are based upon the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) soundness self-assessment toolkit. They cover the pre-production, issues and options and preferred 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 the 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 latest revision of the LDS came into effect April 2007 and identifies the Totnes/Dartington DPD in the project plan (p.9), and the schedule and programme of proposed LDDs (p.11 & p.20).</i>
Have you recorded the commencement of the DPD?		<i>The revised LDS (April 2007) sets out that commencement of the DPD began in September 2004 (with elements of pre-production occurring 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 DPD are set out on p.20 of the current LDS (April 2007).</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 in the 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 the Environment Agency, Countryside Agency, English Heritage and English Nature and other key stakeholders seeking their views over 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. Details of who was consulted, how and when are available in the Regulation 28 Statement for the Core Strategy which shared the same Issues and Options consultation period as the Totnes/Dartington DPD.</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 Planning Survey (Oct 2004) from the Issues and Options stage set out a range of options to gauge community views on identified issues/proposed sites. 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>What will be set out in the Statement of Consultation (Regulation 28 Statement) and consultation audit. Details of who was consulted, how and when are available in the Regulation 28 Statement for the Core Strategy which shared the same Issues and Options consultation period as the Totnes/Dartington DPD.</i>
Are you developing a framework for monitoring the effects of the DPD?		<i>SA/ SEA of the LDF Scoping Report (April 2005). A monitoring framework is included at the back of the document and the issue will be picked up 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	<i>Not statutory, but will assist the later stages where the</i>	<i>Regular Meetings with GOSW. GOSW sent</i>

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copies of documents used in consultation?	<i>SoS has a statutory role</i>	<i>copies of all documents with a covering letter.</i>
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Stage 3: Preferred options (Regulation 26 participation)

Activity	Statutory Requirement	Evidence provided
Is the DPD being prepared in accordance with the LDS?	The Act s19(1)	<i>The approved LDS (April 2007) identifies the Totnes/Dartington DPD in the project plan, p.9 and DPD profile is on p.20.</i>
Have you assessed the preferred options against - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consistency with national policy? • general conformity with the RSS? • conformity with the core strategy DPD or old policy (unless the DPD will supersede the old policy)? 	The Act s19(2), s24 and Schedule 8 Regulation 13(6)	<i>Totnes/Dartington DPD Preferred Options October 2007.</i> <i>Response from GOSW during formal preferred options consultation period. LDS (April 2007) p.20.</i> <i>Response from SWRA at Issues and Options stage and representation at Preferred Options.</i> <i>Adopted Core Strategy (December 2006)</i> <i>CPD process enables staff to be aware of the national/regional requirements.</i>
Are you having regard to - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adjoining RSSs, the SDS or Welsh Spatial Plan (as appropriate where either of these adjoin the plan area)? • the National Planning Framework for Scotland? 	The Act s19(2) Regulation 15(1)(g)	<i>Not relevant – none of these adjoin the plan area.</i>
Are you having regard to - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the community strategy of the authority or other authorities whose area comprises part of the area of the LPA? • any other LDD adopted by the authority? 	PCPA 2004 s.19(2)	<i>Strong links throughout the documents to the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-11 prepared by the South Hams Strategic Partnership (SHDC is a member of the steering group) and the adopted LDF Core Strategy (December 2006).</i> <i>The South Hams LDF is mentioned throughout the Sustainable Community Strategy, particularly on sections with links to other strategies, delivery and the action plan.</i> <i>The South Hams Strategic Partnership have been informed with regular updates on LDF progress and invited to make comments during consultation periods.</i> <i>The DPD mentions links in section 4 and 5. Themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy help inform the strategic objectives and vision for the DPD (sections 6 & 7).</i>

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Activity	Statutory Requirement	Evidence provided
<p>Are you having regard to the other matters and strategies relating to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resources • regional development strategy • infrastructure provision and any transport plan • utilities infrastructure • integration of transport and land use policies • waste strategies • hazardous substances and accidents • climate change • air quality strategy 	<p>The Act s19(2) Regulation 15</p>	<p><i>The DPD has regard to the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy and in the interim RPG10 and the Devon Structure Plan as set out in section 4 of the DPD.</i></p> <p><i>The objectives section of the DPD and the assessment of sites through Sustainability Threshold Assessment using criteria linked to resource usage.</i></p> <p><i>Regard is had to other appropriate plans and strategies, such as the Devon Local Transport Plan, local community plans etc. Certain strategic objectives of the DPD specifically relate to transport and accessibility.</i></p> <p><i>The adopted Core Strategy policy CS11: Climate Change provides an overarching policy.</i></p>
<p>Have you undertaken the necessary sustainability appraisal of alternatives in arriving at the preferred options?</p>	<p>The Act s19(5)</p>	<p><i>SA/SEA – on the preferred options (October 2007). The Sustainability Threshold Assessment of Development Site Options evidence base paper.</i></p>
<p>Have you prepared the Sustainability Report?</p>	<p>The Act s19(5)</p>	<p><i>SA/SEA – on the preferred options (October 2007).</i></p>
<p>Have you set out clear reasons for the preferred options and a précis of the alternatives and why they were rejected</p>	<p>Regulation 13(1)</p>	<p><i>The DPD sets out the alternatives to the preferred options. The Sustainability Threshold Assessment of Development Site Options evidence base paper sets out details of how the potential sites were considered.</i></p> <p><i>SA/SEA – on the preferred options (October 2007)</i></p>
<p>Are you ready to seek participation on the preferred options and consult on the sustainability report?</p>	<p>Regulation 26</p>	<p><i>Council agenda 13 September 2007</i></p> <p><i>Letter sent to consultation bodies</i></p> <p><i>Community consultation / engagement going beyond the requirements in the adopted SCI.</i></p>

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Activity	Statutory Requirement	Evidence provided
<i>Have you prepared a housing trajectory (where relevant to the DPD being prepared)?</i>	Non-statutory , although Regulation 48 requires information on net additional dwellings to be given in the AMR	<i>Housing trajectory is in the adopted Core Strategy. AMR (December 2006) Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (under consideration)</i>
Where sites are to be identified or areas for the application of policy, are you preparing sufficient illustrative material to - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable you to amend the currently adopted proposals map? and • inform the community about the location of proposals? 	Regulation 9	<i>Draft maps contained in the DPD will ultimately form the basis for the relevant insets of the Proposals Map.</i>
Have you made copies of the “pre-submission proposals documents” and a statement of the “proposals matters” available for inspection?	Regulation 26(a). Regulation 27 allows anyone to make representations and specifies a period of six weeks. The LPA must consider all representations received (see Regulation 27(3)).	<i>The DPD and associated documents are available for inspection at the Council offices. Copies have also been dispatched to libraries in the district and all Town and Parish Councils. A Statement of Consultation (Regulation 28 Statement) will be prepared setting out who was consulted, how and when. This will include an advertisement placed in the local press and the statement of availability setting-out where the documents are available to be viewed. Going beyond the adopted SCI requirements re. community consultation / engagement</i>
Have you published the pre-submission proposals documents (preferred options report), proposals matters and a statement that the documents are available for inspection (at specified places and times) on the website?	Regulation 26(b) Regulation 24 gives definitions and Regulation 27 facilitates representations (see above)	<i>Yes. Copies of all these statements will be available on the Council website.</i>

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Activity	Statutory Requirement	Evidence provided
<p>Have you sent to the “DPD bodies” (ie all those you consulted at the Regulation 25 stage)-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposals for the DPD? • supporting documents that are relevant to the body? • notice of proposals matters? • a statement that the documents are available for inspection (at specified places and times)? 	<p>Regulation 26 (c)</p> <p>Regulation 24 gives definitions and Regulation 27 facilitates representations (see above)</p>	<p><i>Covering letter and documents sent to specific consultation bodies.</i></p>
<p>Have you advertised in a local paper giving notice of the proposals matters and where and when the pre-submission proposals documents can be inspected?</p>	<p>Regulation 26(d)</p> <p>Regulation 24 gives definitions and Regulation 27 facilitates representations (see above)</p>	<p><i>Copy of the advertisement.</i></p> <p><i>A Statement of Consultation (Regulation 28 Statement) will be prepared setting out who was consulted how and when.</i></p>
<p>Do the participation arrangements comply with the SCI?</p>	<p>The Act s19(3)</p>	<p><i>Adopted SCI (June 2006) and the Statement of Consultation (Regulation 28 Statement) will be prepared setting out who was consulted how and when.</i></p>
<p><i>Have you sent the Government Office and the Planning Inspectorate copies of the proposals for the DPD and supporting documents?</i></p>	<p><i>Not statutory, but will assist the later stages where the Secretary of State and the Inspector have statutory roles.</i></p>	<p><i>Covering letter and documents sent to GOSW and the Planning Inspectorate.</i></p>
<p>Are you keeping a record of the number of representations made and the issues raised?</p>	<p>Regulation 28(1)(d)</p>	<p><i>Yes. A Statement of Consultation (Regulation 28 Statement) will be prepared setting out who was consulted how and when. This will summarise all representations made and the Council response.</i></p>