

# Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Publication Stage Representation Form

Please return to Bassetlaw District Council by 5pm on Monday 20th December 2010

This form has two parts:

**Part A** – Personal Details

**Part B** – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make.

Guidance on how to complete this form is provided on the final pages

## PART A

### 1. Your details

### 2. Agents Details (if applicable)

Title	<input type="text" value="Mr"/>	<input type="text"/>
First Name	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job Title	<input type="text" value="Northern Conservation Officer"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address line 1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Line 2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Line 3	<input type="text" value="Retford"/>	<input type="text"/>
Line 4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E-mail Address	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you would like your details to be added to our consultation database, please tick

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE REPRESENTATIONS, INCLUDING YOUR CONTACT  
DETAILS, WILL BE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.**

**PART B - Please use a separate sheet for each representation**

Name or Organisation: **Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust**.....

3. To which document does your representation relate?		
Core Strategy	Proposals Map	Sustainability Appraisal

4. To which part of the Core Strategy/Sustainability Appraisal does your representation relate?					
Paragraph Number(s)	5.7	Policy Number(s)	DM9	Diagram(s)	

5. Do you consider the document to be legally compliant*?
Yes

6. Do you consider the Core Strategy to be 'sound'*?
No

7. If you consider the Core Strategy to be 'unsound', please identify the test of soundness to which your representation relates.		
Justified	Effective	Consistent with National Policy

\* The considerations in relation to the Core Strategy being ‘sound’ and ‘legally compliant’ are explained on the back page of this form.

**8. Please give details of why you consider that the Core Strategy/Sustainability Appraisal/Proposals Map is not legally compliant or is unsound. Please be as precise as possible.**

**If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Core Strategy/Sustainability Appraisal/Proposals Map, please use this box to comment.**

**A. Green Infrastructure**

We welcome the statement “*development proposals will be expected to support the Council’s strategic approach to the delivery, protection and enhancement of multi-functional Green Infrastructure, to be achieved through the establishment of a network of green corridors and assets (please refer to the Council’s Green Infrastructure work for a full list of Green Corridors and Nodes within, and running beyond, the District) at local, sub-regional and regional levels. Particular support will be given to proposals that will further the development of: The Idle Valley Project; The Trent Vale Partnership; Sherwood Forest Regional Park.*” We would like to see the inclusion of additional detail about the above projects that highlights their value as ‘Living Landscapes’, we would be happy to provide useful text and maps for this purpose.

**B. Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

*‘Development that will result in the loss of such features may be supported where replacement provision is made that is considered to be of equal or greater value than that which will be lost and which is likely to result in a net gain in biodiversity. Where new development may have an adverse impact on such features, alternative scheme designs that minimise impact must be presented to the Council for consideration before the use of mitigation measures is considered. Where sufficient mitigation measures cannot be delivered, compensation measures must be provided as a last resort.’*

We would like to see more emphasis placed on avoidance of damage to Local Wildlife Sites rather than measures to mitigate and/or compensate for any detrimental impact on environmental features. Sites of regional and local biodiversity and geological interest, which include Regionally Important Geological Sites, Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites, have a fundamental role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets; contributing to the quality of life and the well-being of the community; and in supporting research and education. Where damage or complete loss is permitted the aim should be to ensure that a net gain of biodiversity is achieved at a proportion of at least 5:1 to that land that is to be lost. Habitat creation schemes may take many years to attain the level of biodiversity of the area that is lost, if ever and therefore conserving and enhancing habitats in situ should always be the preferred strategy.

Such an objective is supported by national planning policies and Regional Spatial Strategy 8: the East Midlands. Planning Policy Statement 1: Sustainable Development states that “*planning should facilitate and promote sustainable development by ‘protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside’*”. It directly addresses the protection and enhancement of the environment in paragraphs 17 to 19. states that a “*High level of protection should be given to the most valued...landscapes, wildlife habitats and natural resources*”. RSS8 has specific policies on the protection of biodiversity and there has been a crucial change in context in that there should be a **net gain in biodiversity**.

Policy 28: Priorities for the Region's Biodiversity states “development and implementation of mechanisms to ensure that development results in no net loss of BAP habitats and species and that net gain is achieved.”

**C. Landscape Character**

*“New development proposals in and adjoining the countryside will be expected to be designed so as to be sensitive to their landscape setting. They will be expected to enhance the distinctive qualities of the landscape character area in which they would be situated, as identified in the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment. Proposals will be expected to respond to the local recommendations made in the Assessment by conserving, restoring, reinforcing or creating landscape forms and features accordingly.”*

We are of the opinion that more detailed guidelines are included to ensure that the distinctive quality of the landscape character of an area is conserved.

**9. Have you raised this issue during previous formal consultations? (tick as appropriate)**

Yes (at Issues & Options)  Yes (at Preferred Options)

No  If you have answered 'No', please explain why this issue has not been raised before:

**10. With reference to your answer at 8 above, please outline the precise change that you consider to be necessary to make the Core Strategy/Sustainability Appraisal/Proposals Map legally compliant or sound. Please demonstrate *why* this change will make the Core Strategy/Sustainability Appraisal legally compliant or sound.**

**A. Green Infrastructure**

Include a paragraph on the principle behind Living Landscapes. *'The wildlife Trusts Living*

*Landscape schemes aim to protect areas rich in wildlife; enlarging, enhancing and linking them across the UK to provide a healthy natural environment so that wildlife can adapt to climate change.'*

### **B. Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

RSS8 provides the statutory frame work for delivering Sustainable Development in the East Midlands and sets the context and spatial framework for the Bassetlaw LDF and LDDs. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust considers that the mechanisms referred to in policy 28 of RSS8 are the objectives and policies of the LDF and LDDs. In addition we would suggest the following wording would be most appropriate related to mitigation: 'Where development results in harm to biodiversity, appropriate mitigation will be provided to ensure no net loss of biodiversity through large scale development'.

### **C. Landscape Character**

Include following wording *"through the use of native species and ideally, of local origin"*

**11. If your representation is seeking a change to the Core Strategy or Sustainability Appraisal, do you consider it necessary for you to participate at the oral part of the examination or will this written response (to be submitted to the Inspector) be sufficient?**

*Please note that this written representation carries the same weight, and will be subject to the same scrutiny, as oral representations.*

No, I do not wish to participate

Yes, I wish to participate

**Signature**

**Date** 12 November 2010

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 5PM ON MONDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2010 TO:**

Planning Services, Bassetlaw District Council, Queens Buildings, Potter Street, Worksop,  
S80 1AH or by email to [future.plans@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:future.plans@bassetlaw.gov.uk) .

## RESPONSE FORM GUIDANCE NOTES

### Introduction

Bassetlaw District Council has published the Publication Core Strategy for representations from Monday 8 November 2010 to Friday 20th December 2010. Following the end of this period, all representations will be submitted to the Secretary of State, together with the final Core Strategy. A Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will then lead a public examination on the Core Strategy, and issue a binding report, before it is formally adopted by the District Council.

According to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the purpose of the examination is to consider whether the Core Strategy is **legally compliant** and is **sound**. If you are seeking to make representations on the way in which Bassetlaw has prepared the Core Strategy, then your comments or objections will relate to a matter of **legal compliance**. If your representation is regarding the content of the Core Strategy, then it is likely that it will relate to whether the Core Strategy is **sound**.

### Making Representations

If you wish to make a representation seeking a change to the Core Strategy or part of the Core Strategy you should make clear in what way the Core Strategy or part of the Core Strategy is not sound having regards to the tests of soundness (which are set out below). You should try to support your representation by evidence showing why the Core Strategy should be changed. It will be helpful if you also say precisely how you think the Core Strategy should be changed. Representations should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further submissions based on the original representation made at this stage. After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.

Where there are groups who share a common view on how they wish to see a Core Strategy changed, it would be very helpful for that group to send a single representation which represents the view, rather than for a large number of individuals to send in separate representations that repeat the same points. In such cases, the group should indicate how many people it is representing and how the representation has been authorised.

### Legal Compliance

You should consider the following before making a representation on legal compliance:

- The process of community involvement should be in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement 2009;
- For each stage of consultation and according to the regulations, the Council must make available the various documents that have helped produce and inform the various stages of the Core Strategy through the media, website, libraries and distributions of hard copies on request;
- Bassetlaw District Council is required to produce a Sustainability Appraisal Report when the Core Strategy is published;
- The Core Strategy should have regard to national planning policies, but its policies must not repeat guidance set out in national policy; and
- The Core Strategy must have regard to the Sustainable Communities Strategy for Bassetlaw.

## **Test of Soundness**

The tests of soundness are that the Core Strategy should be:

- i) Justified - to be justified, the Core Strategy needs to be:
  - Founded on a robust and credible evidence base, involving evidence of participation by the community and stakeholders;
  - Choices made in the document must be backed by facts;
  - It must be the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives.
  
- ii) Effective - to be effective, the Core Strategy should be;
  - Deliverable;
  - Have a sound infrastructure delivery plan;
  - Have delivery partners who are signed up to it;
  - Coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities.
  
- iii) Consistent with National Planning Policy – to be consistent with National Planning Policy, the Core Strategy should be;
  - Justify its approach;
  - Justify a local need;
  - Has not repeated National Policy.