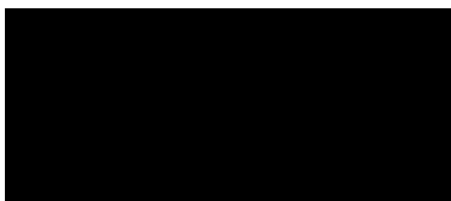


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Strategic

BASSETLAW
LOCAL
Strategic
PARTNERSHIP

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Planning Policy & Conservation Manager
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16 December 2010

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Publication Core Strategy and Development Management Policies - November 2010

I am pleased to be able to provide a response to Bassetlaw District Council's Publication Core Strategy on behalf of the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership (BLSP). Our response provides some general comments on the process of producing the Core Strategy and its current content. We have, therefore, not used the response form provided.

Producing the Core Strategy - the approach to consultation

General approach

The BLSP has commended Bassetlaw District Council's approach to consultation, which has informed the production of the Core Strategy and supporting Development Management Policies.

The Director of the Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service, Geraldine Pearce, described the approach as 'one of the most inclusive and comprehensive consultation exercises that she had seen undertaken by the District Council'.

The Partnership believes that the approach has gone beyond minimum compliance and has made genuine attempts to engage all sectors of the community in issues that are often viewed as complex and remote by the average resident.

In a sparsely populated rural district the Planning Policy Team at Bassetlaw have made the effort to go out into small communities to talk through planning options for the future of the District face to face and to gain first hand feedback on residents'

aspirations for the future development of Bassetlaw. This is a clear demonstration of the commitment that Bassetlaw District Council has had to 'focus on priorities identified by the community' – a commitment made in their Statement of Community Involvement (August 2009) and to exceed more usual methods of consultation e.g. website, email and hard copy consultations.

Direct consultation with the BLSP

The BLSP has been given opportunities to shape the content of the Core Strategy. Specific events with service planning leads from all the major public sector organisations, supported by representatives from the private and voluntary sectors, have taken place. This enabled current levels and patterns of service provision to be assessed and understood by the Planning Policy Team. It also allowed those responsible for service planning to provide informed feedback on where the expansion of settlements in the District should be located and how this would impact on service requirements.

Ongoing engagement

Senior Managers from the Planning Policy Team have kept the BLSP apprised of the progress to produce the Core Strategy and supporting Development Management Policies in a variety of ways: -

- Briefing notes to the Board
- Attendance at the Board by senior managers from the Planning Policy Team
- Attendance by Planning Policy Officers to relevant Sub-Groups of the BLSP

These positive relationships have helped shape:

- A common understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the District.
- A shared evidence base for the LDF and the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- Working arrangements that will help to achieve the ambitions of both the Core Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The content of the Core Strategy

The BLSP supports the 15-year vision for Bassetlaw described in the Core Strategy and recognises the value of a hierarchy of settlements. The BLSP believes the vision to be realistic and achievable. As such the partners within the BLSP will play their part to realise the achievement of its ambitions. It considers the document to be 'legally compliant and sound'.

The evidence base used for the Core Strategy was used to inform an independent study of Bassetlaw which was commissioned as part of the process to refresh the BLSP Sustainable Community Strategy. Not surprisingly the ambitions for the future of the District, the assessment of its relative strengths and challenges and the areas for future development correspond in both the Core Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Development Management Policies

The BLSP is supportive of the Development Management Policies provided as part of the Core Strategy. Moving forward it believes that they provide a platform for the economic regeneration of the District but ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental, cultural, heritage and human impacts of such development.

Changes to the Core Strategy

The Sustainable Community Strategy has been refreshed. We would therefore want the following amendments to be made to the Core Strategy.

These are listed below: -

Bassetlaw Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020

- 1.6 Planning Officers have worked closely with the Board and Executive of the BLSP, as well as with its Sub-Groups and
- 1.7 Remove last bullet point worded as follows. LAAs have now been abolished by the Coalition Government and the current LAA will cease in March 2011 and will not be replaced:
 - The BLSP will have strong links with Nottinghamshire and will take a lead in the delivery of the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) in Bassetlaw.

Appendix 3:

On reviewing this section we believe that this requires further examination by your team. We have completed our own assessment to match your Strategic Objectives to the revised eight SCS Ambitions and Sub-Group Priorities and believe that it would be pertinent to look at this section again alongside the refreshed SCS. It may be that as the Appendix refers to both District and County strategies there will be no changes but as this is the last opportunity to amend we feel that it is appropriate to review this section.

I would be happy to expand upon this consultation response if required.

Yours sincerely,

