



## Submission Statement of Community Involvement

### Scheduled of Responses and Proposed Changes for Examination

July 2006

This table provides a schedule of all nineteen (19) responses to the Submission Statement of Community Involvement. It also sets out the Council's proposed changes which we hope will assist the Inspector.

This is a second version of the Schedule which has been prepared in light of comments from the Planning Inspectorate that the Inspector has requested that all changes be set out in the Schedule (rather than in an amended version of the Statement of Community Involvement, as we had previously done).

To assist the Inspector:

- Proposed changes are underlined.
- Text proposed for deletion is ~~underlined and crossed out~~.

A summary of comments made by each respondent	The Council's response and proposed changes
<b>Of those bodies who do not specifically state that they regard the SCI to be unsound:</b>	
<p>Mr Oliver Christopherson recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ One-to-one meetings with individuals, groups and organisations should take place “on request” not just “as appropriate”.</li> <li>■ A report of any such meetings should be considered alongside written material.</li> <li>■ That original documents, or a sample where there are duplicate objections, should be circulated to members, not just summary reports.</li> <li>■ The Core Strategy is needed before Area Action Plans and design guides.</li> <li>■ Consultation on SPDs will take place too late to influence their content.</li> </ul>	<p>“As appropriate” better reflects the pressure of officers’ time and the merits of a meeting for both the individual/group/organisation concerned and the Council. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>To avoid any ambiguity, the Council will only accept written representations. For those meetings arranged at the request of the individual/group/organisation, it is not appropriate for the attending Council officer to prepare a report of that meeting. It is perfectly reasonable to expect individuals/groups/organisation to make notes during such a meeting to inform their subsequent written representations.</p> <p>Additional text proposed to bullet point 8 in paragraph 25: <u>“However, it will remain the responsibility of the individual, group or organisation to submit written comments after the meeting if they so wish.”</u></p> <p>Summary reports will be circulated to Members. Original documents will be available for them to view prior to any Committees or Executives. Original documents will not be circulated to Members due to the volume of paper. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>The Core Strategy will be prepared alongside Area Action Plans and Design Guides to ensure the LDF is produced within a reasonable and sensible period of time. The LDS which sets out the timetable for the production of the LDF has been approved by the Government Office and endorsed the Planning Inspectorate. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>The consultation process for SPDs is in-line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. As the name suggests, SPDs will relate to, and be informed by, policies in DPDs which will have undergone a more extensive consultation process. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The design guide should be incorporated into the Core Strategy and specific area design guides should be incorporated into Area Action Plans</li> <li>■ The development control section of the SCI should focus more clearly on mega-applications such as Stevenage West and the town centre redevelopment.</li> </ul>	<p>As above, this is not considered appropriate. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>The Council believes that the community involvement techniques for major and departure applications are sufficient for mega-applications. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>
<p>The Countryside Agency do not have any comments to make.</p>	<p>Noted. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>
<p>The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) is pleased to note their previous comments have been helpful in producing the revised SCI.</p>	<p>Noted. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>
<p>English Nature welcome the inclusion of Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre on the list of consultees.</p>	<p>Noted. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>
<p>The Environment Agency states its satisfaction with the SCI.</p>	<p>Noted. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>
<p>Great North Eastern Railways (GNER) do not wish to be notified of the publication of the Inspector's Report.</p>	<p>Noted. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>
<p>HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety do not have any comments to make.</p>	<p>Noted. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>
<p>The Friends of Forster Country describe the SCI as exhaustive, sensible and far-reaching. They state a desire to attend the Examination as they see it as an essential component in validating the entire process of formulating the LDF and that their lack of attendance would be contrary to the spirit of community involvement.</p>	<p>Noted. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>
<p>Mr Bill Hoyes believes that the SCI appears to give people the information needed to comment on setting policy and responding to applications. He describes his subsequent comments as editorial, many</p>	

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<p>of which simplify language used in the SCI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Page 7: the word “scoping” is jargon.</li> <li>■ Page 8: statements in the table are unnecessarily repetitive.</li> <li>■ Page 11: amend the heading to “How you may become involved”</li> <li>■ Page 12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Amend paragraph 23 to “The experience of the Council’s Equalities and Diversities officer and the Community Development team will be used to ensure that hard-to-reach groups, such as ethnic minorities, the disabled and the elderly are consulted.”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>“Scoping” is regarded as an acceptable word. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>Agree that statements are repetitive, but do not feel they detract from readability. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>Sub-heading questions have been written from the viewpoint of the reader. This change would not continue the theme. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>Paragraph 23 is proposed for deletion: <u>“The Council will pay particular attention to consulting hard to reach groups, such as ethnic minorities and the elderly, by utilising the expertise of the Council’s Equalities and Diversity officer and Community Development team.”</u></p> <p>A new section sub-titled “Hard-to-Reach Groups” has been inserted on page 13. This provides a broad definition of hard-to-reach groups and makes a distinction with the general public. It also details evidence of how such groups will be specifically targeted and explains the engagement methods and techniques that will be used to overcome barriers that have existed in the past. This includes a new table detailing how often Council officers attend meetings with such groups and can thereby utilise their experience and networks of communication to ‘champion’ planning issues. The changes proposed are: (these will become new paragraphs 26 to 30)</p> <p><b><u>“Hard-to-Reach Groups</u></b></p> <p><u>In general terms, hard-to-reach groups are defined as any group which it is difficult to access. In more specific terms, hard-to-reach groups include: people whose first language is not English; those with some form of physical or mental disability; children and young people; the elderly;</u></p>

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	<p><u>ethnic minorities; asylum seekers; gypsies and travellers; religious groups; the homeless; substance abusers and people who have experienced domestic violence. Such groups may not be engaged by, or may be generally unwilling to engage in, traditional consultation methods. Appendix A provides a detailed list of those groups that the Council considers hard-to-reach and are distinct from consultees who generally engage in community involvement.</u></p> <p><u>The Council will utilise the expertise and networks of communication already established by the Community Development team, the Housing team, the Equalities and Diversity Officer and through the Community Strategy process to engage such groups. This will include briefing officers whose day-to-day role brings them into contact with hard-to-reach groups. These officers will effectively use their in-depth knowledge and experience to 'champion' planning issues on behalf of the Council. Where appropriate, the Planning Policy team will hold meetings and host presentations with such groups at a mutually convenient time and venue.</u></p> <p><u>The table below provides an indication of the frequency that officers are in contact with hard-to-reach groups. It demonstrates that many such groups can be actively engaged before, during and between six week consultation periods. Please note, this is not an exclusive list: the Council will look to work with any other groups that come to light during consultation periods.</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1128 1075 2089 1398"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1128 1075 1464 1134">Group</th> <th data-bbox="1464 1075 1630 1134">Weekly / fortnightly</th> <th data-bbox="1630 1075 1787 1134">Monthly</th> <th data-bbox="1787 1075 1951 1134">Quarterly</th> <th data-bbox="1951 1075 2089 1134">Annually</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1128 1134 1464 1203"><u>Dyes Lane Gypsy and Traveller Site</u></td> <td data-bbox="1464 1134 1630 1203"></td> <td data-bbox="1630 1134 1787 1203">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1787 1134 1951 1203"></td> <td data-bbox="1951 1134 2089 1203"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1128 1203 1464 1257"><u>FOSTA</u></td> <td data-bbox="1464 1203 1630 1257"></td> <td data-bbox="1630 1203 1787 1257">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1787 1203 1951 1257"></td> <td data-bbox="1951 1203 2089 1257"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1128 1257 1464 1326"><u>Gujerati Hindu Men's Association</u></td> <td data-bbox="1464 1257 1630 1326">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1630 1257 1787 1326"></td> <td data-bbox="1787 1257 1951 1326"></td> <td data-bbox="1951 1257 2089 1326"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1128 1326 1464 1398"><u>Hertfordshire Young Homeless</u></td> <td data-bbox="1464 1326 1630 1398"></td> <td data-bbox="1630 1326 1787 1398">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1787 1326 1951 1398"></td> <td data-bbox="1951 1326 2089 1398"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group	Weekly / fortnightly	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	<u>Dyes Lane Gypsy and Traveller Site</u>		✓			<u>FOSTA</u>		✓			<u>Gujerati Hindu Men's Association</u>	✓				<u>Hertfordshire Young Homeless</u>		✓		
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	<u>REACT</u>	<u>✓</u>
	<u>Relate North Hertfordshire and Stevenage</u>	<u>✓</u>
	<u>Social Inclusion Forum</u>	<u>✓</u>
	<u>Stevenage and North Hertfordshire Women's Resource Centre</u>	<u>✓</u>
	<u>Stevenage Asian Women Network</u>	<u>✓</u>
	<u>Stevenage Caribbean and African Association</u>	<u>✓</u>
	<u>Stevenage CVS</u>	<u>✓</u>
	<u>Stevenage Haven</u>	<u>✓</u>
	<u>Stevenage on Herts Domestic Violence Forum</u>	<u>✓</u>
	<u>Stevenage World Forum for Ethnic Minorities</u>	<u>✓</u>
	<p><u>These methods of engagement represent a significant improvement on the old District Plan process which employed more 'mechanistic' consultation processes and relied heavily on technical planning language, to the exclusion of many hard-to-reach groups. Deliberate efforts will be made to avoid technical language and to present planning issues in simple and understandable terms. The Council also believes that the new vision for Stevenage will be far easier to communicate and will encourage more people to get involved in the LDF process.</u></p>	

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	<p>In consulting with hard-to-reach groups, the Council will ensure that the aims and objectives of its Public Consultation Strategy and Equalities and Diversity Strategy are followed. A Translation Facilities box will be included on the inside front cover of all consultation documents and adopted DPDs and SPDs. In addition, the Council will include an optional monitoring form alongside response forms to monitor its success in engaging all sectors of the community.”</p> <p>We also propose to amend the table in paragraph 27 to:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1131 564 2085 1110"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1131 564 1272 767">General public including <del>hard to reach</del> groups</td> <td data-bbox="1272 564 1476 767"></td> <td data-bbox="1476 564 1680 767"></td> <td data-bbox="1680 564 1883 767"></td> <td data-bbox="1883 564 2085 767"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>Non-technical language</u></li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1131 767 1272 1110"><del>Hard-to-reach</del> groups</td> <td data-bbox="1272 767 1476 1110"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> <li>■ <u>targeted consultation</u></li> <li>■ <u>brief officers to champion issues</u></li> </ul> </td> <td data-bbox="1476 767 1680 1110"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> <li>■ <u>targeted consultation</u></li> <li>■ <u>brief officers to champion issues</u></li> </ul> </td> <td data-bbox="1680 767 1883 1110"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> <li>■ <u>targeted consultation</u></li> <li>■ <u>brief officers to champion issues</u></li> </ul> </td> <td data-bbox="1883 767 2085 1110"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In addition, Appendix A has been amended to list local groups that the Council considers are hard-to-reach. The following bodies are proposed for deletion from the Other Consultees sub-section in Appendix A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <del>Churches Together in Stevenage</del></li> <li>■ <del>Hard to reach groups</del></li> <li>■ <del>Hertfordshire Action on Disability</del></li> <li>■ <del>Local community action groups (e.g. Stevenage World Forum)</del></li> </ul>	General public including <del>hard to reach</del> groups				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>Non-technical language</u></li> </ul>	<del>Hard-to-reach</del> groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> <li>■ <u>targeted consultation</u></li> <li>■ <u>brief officers to champion issues</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> <li>■ <u>targeted consultation</u></li> <li>■ <u>brief officers to champion issues</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> <li>■ <u>targeted consultation</u></li> <li>■ <u>brief officers to champion issues</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> </ul>
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	<p>and the following text will be added:</p> <p><b><u>“Hard-to-Reach Groups</u></b></p> <p><u>The Council intends to specifically target and engage the following groups who represent hard-to-reach sectors of the community we have traditionally struggled to involve in the plan-making process. Please note, this is not an exclusive list: the Council will look to work with any other groups that come to light during consultation periods.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>Age Concern Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Aspect – Stevenage World Forum</u></li> <li>■ <u>Asylum Groups Support Worker</u></li> <li>■ <u>Broadhall Handi-Handicap Club</u></li> <li>■ <u>Buddhist Centre</u></li> <li>■ <u>Bus Users Group Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Churches Together in Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Dyes Lane Gypsy and Traveller Site</u></li> <li>■ <u>FOSTA</u></li> <li>■ <u>Gujerati Hindu Men's Association</u></li> <li>■ <u>Help the Aged</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Action on Disability</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Association of Young People</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Black / Ethnic Alliance</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Care Trust</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Drug Action Team</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Young Homeless</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hightown Praetorian Association Women's Refuge</u></li> <li>■ <u>Independent Custody Visitors Scheme</u></li> <li>■ <u>Minority Ethnic Curriculum Support Services</u></li> <li>■ <u>Motor Neurone Disease Association (North and East Hertfordshire)</u></li> <li>■ <u>MS Society (Mid Hertfordshire)</u></li> <li>■ <u>North Herts and Stevenage Alzheimer's Branch</u></li> <li>■ <u>North Herts People First</u></li> </ul>





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<p>newspaper and the Council's Chronicle magazine will give progress reports during the preparation of the LDF."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reword sentence in bullet point 6 to "Use of leaflets, flyers and brochures distributed separately, or with other Council correspondence, to summarise detailed information."</li> <li>■ Page 13: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Replace words in bullet point 9 from "groups of" to "people in".</li> <li>■ Amend sentence in bullet point 10 to "Such research can target groups and individuals with particular interests."</li> <li>■ Amend sentence in bullet point 11.</li> <li>■ Amend sentence in bullet point 13 to "Interactive workshops can reach people who might not get involved in more formal groups but who may respond to this kind of contact."</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Page 15: Amend words in Stage 3 description to "...identified issues and will provide a précis of alternative options that were considered. The Preferred Options report will be accompanied by a formal sustainability proposal and will be released for consultation for six weeks."</li> <li>■ Page 17:</li> </ul>	<p>frequency that residents will receive Chronicle magazine. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>Change accepted and proposed to bullet point 6 in paragraph 25 "<u>Use of leaflets, flyers and brochures distributed separately, or with other Council correspondence, to summarise detailed information.</u>"</p> <p>Change accepted and proposed to bullet point 9 in paragraph 25 to:  <u>"Presentations to groups, organisations and stakeholders as appropriate, to target particular groups of people in the community who may be interested in a specific issue."</u></p> <p>Change accepted and proposed to bullet point 10 in paragraph 25 to "<u>Such research can target groups and individuals with particular interests or citizen's panels with multiple interests.</u>"</p> <p>Partial changes proposed to bullet point 11 in paragraph 25 in order to simplify language: "<u>Use of pre-existing panels and forums, such as the Stevenage Conservation Liaison Group, to target people with particular characteristics/interests.</u>"</p> <p>Change accepted and proposed to bullet point 13 in paragraph 25 to "<u>Interactive workshops can reach people who might not get involved in formal groups but who may respond to this kind of contact.</u>"</p> <p>Simply presents the same information in a different order. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Change heading to "Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)"</li> <li>■ Amend paragraph 30 to "A SPD will be produced if changes or additions to the LDF are found to be needed. It will be produced in the following stages."</li> <li>■ Amend words in Stage 2 description to "A draft SPD will be prepared by the Council."</li> <li>■ Amend words in Stage 3 description to "The draft SPD will be released for community..."</li> <li>■ Amend words in Stage 4 description to "Submissions will be analysed and, if it is thought necessary, the SPD will be amended."</li> <li>■ Page 20: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Amend sub-heading to "Opportunities for Individuals to get Involved".</li> <li>■ Note page 22 inserted between pages 20 and 21</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Page 21: Amend sentence in paragraph 45 to "It will also explain how to make comments about the application and the period allowed for returning them to the Council."</li> </ul>	<p>Sub-heading questions have been written from the viewpoint of the reader. This change would not continue the theme. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>Partial changes proposed through insertion of sentence "<u>An SPD may be produced if changes or additions to the LDF are needed</u>".</p> <p>Change accepted and proposed to "<u>A draft SPD document will be prepared by the Council.</u>"</p> <p>Change accepted and proposed to "<u>The draft SPD is will be released for community comment for 6 weeks. It will be accompanied by a formal sustainability appraisal.</u>"</p> <p>Acknowledge purpose of comment and implied criticism of existing wording. Propose changes to reflect wording which appears on page 7 SCI stages diagram to "<u>Once submissions have been received, they will be analysed and comments will be incorporated (where possible)-All submissions received will be analysed and comments will be incorporated where appropriate.</u>"</p> <p>Sub-heading questions have been written from the viewpoint of the reader. This change would not continue the theme. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>Appears to have been a one-off printing error. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>Changes accepted and proposed to "<u>It will also contain information on how you can make comments on the application and the timescales involved in returning any comments you may have. It will also explain how to make comments about the application and the period allowed for returning them to the Council.</u>"</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Page 24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Amend sentence in paragraph 54 to “A copy of the Development Control report will be made available on request.”</li> <li>■ Amend word in paragraph 57 from “Once” to “After”.</li> <li>■ Amend words in paragraph 58 from “You” to “An objector”.</li> <li>■ Amend word in paragraph 59 from “have” to “has”.</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Page 26: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Delete word “primarily” in paragraph 64.</li> <li>■ Amend sentence in paragraph 67 to “The annual budget-making process within the medium term financial strategy will establish what resources are necessary to deliver the Council’s programme of community involvement effectively.”</li> <li>■ Amend sentence in paragraph 68 to “If it is found to be necessary, a Planning Delivery Grant can be made available to implement the consultation processes set out in the SCI.”</li> <li>■ Delete words “in order” in paragraph 70.</li> <li>■ Amend sentence in paragraph 70.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Changes accepted and proposed to <u>“A copy of the Development Control officers’ report is available upon request. A copy of the Development Control report will be made available on request.”</u></p> <p>Do not regard that this makes any difference to the sentence. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>Text has been written from viewpoint of reader. This change would not continue this theme. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>“Have” is an appropriate word in this context. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>“Primarily” demonstrates that emphasis will be on the Planning Policy team to carry out consultation processes. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>This proposal re-orders wording but appears to retain the same intention. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>Change partially accepted. Propose addition of <u>“If it is found to be necessary, Planning Delivery Grant may be used to implement the consultation processes outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement.”</u></p> <p><u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>Change partially accepted to: <u>“The review will also include an analysis of the relative success of the various community involvement measures undertaken”.</u></p>

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<p>North Herts and Stevenage Primary Care Trust welcome the SCI and its intentions to actively engage the community. They consider it to be sound given the various methods of consultation and the specific mention of hard-to-reach groups but identify the failure to mention young people. They also highlight opportunities to mention youth groups, schools and colleges in the list of consultees. They believe that the SCI builds on the Community Strategy and links with local initiatives and strategies. They describe the processes as suitable to meet the consultation requirements.</p>	<p>A new section sub-titled “Hard-to-Reach Groups” has been inserted on page 13. This provides a broad definition of hard-to-reach groups and makes a distinction with the general public. It also details evidence of how such groups will be specifically targeted and explains the engagement methods and techniques that will be used to overcome barriers that have existed in the past. This includes a new table detailing how often Council officers attend meetings with such groups and can thereby utilise their experience and networks of communication to ‘champion’ planning issues. The changes proposed are (these will become new paragraphs 26 to 30):</p> <p><b><u>“Hard-to-Reach Groups</u></b></p> <p><u>In general terms, hard-to-reach groups are defined as any group which it is difficult to access. In more specific terms, hard-to-reach groups include: people whose first language is not English; those with some form of physical or mental disability; children and young people; the elderly; ethnic minorities; asylum seekers; gypsies and travellers; religious groups; the homeless; substance abusers and people who have experienced domestic violence. Such groups may not be engaged by, or may be generally unwilling to engage in, traditional consultation methods. Appendix A provides a detailed list of those groups that the Council considers hard-to-reach and are distinct from consultees who generally engage in community involvement.</u></p> <p><u>The Council will utilise the expertise and networks of communication already established by the Community Development team, the Housing team, the Equalities and Diversity Officer and through the Community Strategy process to engage such groups. This will include briefing officers whose day-to-day role brings them into contact with hard-to-reach groups. These officers will effectively use their in-depth knowledge and experience to ‘champion’ planning issues on behalf of the Council. Where appropriate, the Planning Policy team will hold meetings and host presentations with such groups at a mutually convenient time and venue.</u></p>

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<p>In addition, Appendix A has been amended to list local groups that the Council considers are hard-to-reach. The following bodies are proposed for deletion from the Other Consultees sub section in Appendix A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <del><u>Churches Together in Stevenage</u></del></li> <li>■ <del><u>Hard to reach groups</u></del></li> <li>■ <del><u>Hertfordshire Action on Disability</u></del></li> <li>■ <del><u>Local community action groups (e.g. Stevenage World Forum)</u></del></li> </ul> <p>and the following text will be added:</p> <p><b><u>“Hard-to-Reach Groups</u></b></p> <p><u>The Council intends to specifically target and engage the following groups who represent hard-to-reach sectors of the community we have traditionally struggled to involve in the plan-making process. Please note, this is not an exclusive list: the Council will look to work with any other groups that come to light during consultation periods.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>Age Concern Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Aspect – Stevenage World Forum</u></li> <li>■ <u>Asylum Groups Support Worker</u></li> <li>■ <u>Broadhall Handi-Handicap Club</u></li> <li>■ <u>Buddhist Centre</u></li> <li>■ <u>Bus Users Group Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Churches Together in Stevenage</u></li> </ul>					



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Peacock and Smith on behalf of Wm Morrison Supermarkets Plc support	No changes proposed.

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proposals set out in the SCI for future consultation.	
Mrs June R Pitcher feels sure that the spirit of the new regulations is met and expresses hope that the citizenry would do their part in the future.	<u>No changes proposed.</u>
RPS Planning on behalf of Stanhope Plc and ING Real Estate support the approach taken to consultation on large-scale development schemes within the SCI. They consider that the methods of involvement are closely tailored to the development in question [the redevelopment of Stevenage town centre]. They recommend that the extent and type of consultation should be determined in conjunction with the developer and suggest that the results of pre-application consultant can be submitted to the Council for their consideration.	The Council anticipates that consultation on large-scale developments will be determined in conjunction with the developer. However, there is no legislation to ensure this happens. Hence, it cannot be included in the SCI. <u>No changes proposed.</u>
Stevenage Borough Council Tenant Participation Coordinator recommends that the Federation of Stevenage Tenants Associations and the new Stevenage ALMO (Arms Length Management Organisation) for Housing Service should be added to the list of consultees.	Stevenage Tenants Associations and the new Stevenage ALMO will be added to the list of consultees in the Other Consultees sub section in Appendix A:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>“Stevenage Tenants Association</u></li> <li>■ <u>Stevenage ALMO”</u></li> </ul>
Stevenage Sports Club Ltd & Stevenage Town RFC & Stevenage Swifts RFC recommend that more direct dialogue should be sought with interested groups where specific sectors are affected. This should include the voluntary sport sector as well as the Borough Council's sports and amenity department. They believe household surveys as insufficient to gauge requirements for sports facilities and will pander to the most popular sports. They raise concern about how the Council forms opinions on how and where to spend Section 106 funding and highlight four recent significant projects which would possibly provide quite substantial benefits to the sports community.	The SCI states that meetings will be held with individuals/groups/ organisations as appropriate. The Council may also seek to meet with individuals/groups/organisations as it considers appropriate. <u>No changes proposed.</u>  Comments about Section 106 funding do not relate to the SCI. <u>No changes proposed.</u>
Thames Water are pleased to note the inclusion of sewerage and water undertakers in the list of consultees. They request adequate time for development options and proposals to be considered so that an informed	The periods of consultation set out in the SCI accord with Government guidance. Thames Water receive the Council's weekly planning application list so are able to comment on major applications. <u>No</u>

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<p>response can be formulated. They expect to be consulted on most major applications (including residential, commercial and industrial; conversions; car parks and contaminated land applications) and assert that sewerage provision, surface water drainage and water quality objectives should be considered in all individual planning applications. They also highlight an incorrect page number cross-reference in paragraph 24.</p>	<p><u>changes proposed.</u></p> <p>The incorrect page number cross-reference has been amended. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>
<p><b>Of those bodies who specifically state that they regard the SCI to be unsound:</b></p>	
<p>The Government Office for the East of England (GO-East) considers that the SCI is unsound in relation to Tests 3 and 5. They consider that there is no definition of those groups the Council consider hard-to-reach and that the table in paragraph 27 makes no distinction between consultation methods aimed at the general public and at hard-to-reach groups. They request that the SCI include some broad identification of hard-to-reach groups that the Council has traditionally struggled to involve in the plan-making process. It should also provide detailed evidence of how the Council intends to target such groups to help ensure their involvement and an explanation of the engagement methods and techniques used to overcome barriers that existed in the past. The Government Office want their written comments to be considered at Examination.</p>	<p>A new section sub-titled "Hard-to-Reach Groups" has been inserted on page 13. This provides a broad definition of hard-to-reach groups and makes a distinction with the general public. It also details evidence of how such groups will be specifically targeted and explains the engagement methods and techniques that will be used to overcome barriers that have existed in the past. This includes a new table detailing how often Council officers attend meetings with such groups and can thereby utilise their experience and networks of communication to 'champion' planning issues. The changes proposed are (these will become new paragraphs 26 to 30):</p> <p><b><u>"Hard-to-Reach Groups</u></b></p> <p><u>In general terms, hard-to-reach groups are defined as any group which it is difficult to access. In more specific terms, hard-to-reach groups include: people whose first language is not English; those with some form of physical or mental disability; children and young people; the elderly; ethnic minorities; asylum seekers; gypsies and travellers; religious groups; the homeless; substance abusers and people who have experienced domestic violence. Such groups may not be engaged by, or may be generally unwilling to engage in, traditional consultation methods. Appendix A provides a detailed list of those groups that the Council considers hard-to-reach and are distinct from consultees who generally engage in community involvement.</u></p>

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	General public including <u>hard-to-reach</u> groups				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>Non-technical language</u></li> </ul>
	Hard-to-reach groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> <li>■ <u>targeted consultation</u></li> <li>■ <u>brief officers to champion issues</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> <li>■ <u>targeted consultation</u></li> <li>■ <u>brief officers to champion issues</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> <li>■ <u>targeted consultation</u></li> <li>■ <u>brief officers to champion issues</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>non-technical language</u></li> </ul>
	<p>In addition, Appendix A has been amended to list local groups that the Council considers are hard-to-reach. The following bodies are proposed for deletion from the Other Consultees sub section in Appendix A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>Churches Together in Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hard to reach groups</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Action on Disability</u></li> <li>■ <u>Local community action groups (e.g. Stevenage World Forum)</u></li> </ul> <p>and the following text will be added:</p> <p><b><u>“Hard-to-Reach Groups</u></b></p> <p>The Council intends to specifically target and engage the following groups who represent <u>hard-to-reach sectors of the community we have traditionally struggled to involve in the plan-making process</u>. Please note, this is not an exclusive list: the Council will look to work with any other</p>				

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	<p>groups that come to light during consultation periods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>Age Concern Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Aspect – Stevenage World Forum</u></li> <li>■ <u>Asylum Groups Support Worker</u></li> <li>■ <u>Broadhall Handi-Handicap Club</u></li> <li>■ <u>Buddhist Centre</u></li> <li>■ <u>Bus Users Group Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Churches Together in Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Dyes Lane Gypsy and Traveller Site</u></li> <li>■ <u>FOSTA</u></li> <li>■ <u>Gujerati Hindu Men's Association</u></li> <li>■ <u>Help the Aged</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Action on Disability</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Association of Young People</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Black / Ethnic Alliance</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Care Trust</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Drug Action Team</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hertfordshire Young Homeless</u></li> <li>■ <u>Hightown Praetorian Association Women's Refuge</u></li> <li>■ <u>Independent Custody Visitors Scheme</u></li> <li>■ <u>Minority Ethnic Curriculum Support Services</u></li> <li>■ <u>Motor Neurone Disease Association (North and East Hertfordshire)</u></li> <li>■ <u>MS Society (Mid Hertfordshire)</u></li> <li>■ <u>North Herts and Stevenage Alzheimer's Branch</u></li> <li>■ <u>North Herts People First</u></li> <li>■ <u>Participatory Learning and Action Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied Club</u></li> <li>■ <u>REACT</u></li> <li>■ <u>Relate North Herts and Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Senior Citizens Association Stevenage</u></li> <li>■ <u>Stevenage Caribbean and African Association</u></li> <li>■ <u>Stevenage CVS</u></li> <li>■ <u>Stevenage Family Support Service</u></li> <li>■ <u>Stevenage Haven</u></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>Stevenage League of Hospital Friends</u></li> <li>■ <u>Stevenage Mosque and Muslim Community Centre</u></li> <li>■ <u>Stevenage on Herts Domestic Violence Forum</u></li> <li>■ <u>Stevenage and North Hertfordshire Women's Resource Centre</u></li> <li>■ <u>Young Citizen's Project</u></li> <li>■ <u>Young Mum's Group</u></li> <li>■ <u>Youth Council</u></li> </ul> <p>On 19th May 2006 the Council received a letter from the Government Office stating that the proposed changes to the SCI satisfy their original representation.</p>
<p>The Home Builders Federation (HBF) considers that the SCI is unsound in relation to Test 1. They consider that the SCI has not complied with the minimum regulations for consultation. Regulations 17 and 24 require copies of DPDs, SPDs and their sustainability appraisals to be sent to specific consultation bodies to the extent that the Council thinks that the DPD or SPD affects such bodies. They recommend that tables within the SCI should be amended by the addition of a "non-statutory consultees" grouping which should state that paper copies of DPDs and SPDs will be sent to all relevant non-statutory consultees. They point out that the HBF is listed as a key consultee in Annex E of PPS12. The HBF want their written comments to be considered at Examination.</p>	<p>The Council believes that it is inappropriate for the SCI to list all the non-statutory or general consultation bodies that it will consult on each DPD and SPD. Each DPD and SPD will be different and, as a result, the appropriate consultation bodies will also be different.</p> <p>The HBF is an important consultee in the planning process and are listed in Appendix A as a general consultation body. As stated in paragraph 25 and the table in paragraph 27 of the SCI, the HBF will receive a letter during consultation periods and at key milestones. This letter will include details of where all DPDs and SPDs can be viewed, purchased and downloaded. This will reduce the amount of paper that will have to be sent out at each consultation stage and at key milestones. It supports the Government's e-planning agenda and it will ensure that the HBF can easily obtain copies of each document they wish to view. This process will be exactly the same for the vast majority of general consultation bodies.</p> <p><u>No changes proposed.</u></p>
<p>Ms Claire Riches considers the SCI to be unsound in relation to Tests 3 and 5 on the basis that:</p>	<p>A telephone conversation was held between Colin Haigh (Principal Planning Officer) and Ms Riches on Tuesday 2nd May 2006 to clarify sections of her representations that were not clear.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Local area assessments and compatibility are not ensured. The Council should endeavour to notify a representative on the Local Area Committee who would subsequently be made aware of any group or organisation in that area who may have valid input into the process. She recommends that applications should be compatible with the local area.</li> </ul> <p>Ms Riches considers the SCI to be unsound in relation to Test 9 in that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The process is not democratic or considerate of the views at variance with the development control summary report produced by the Council. She recommends that summary reports should refer to all significant opposing or conflicting views submitted and adequate comments why such considerations cannot be incorporated. She also recommends that the report should indicate why such views are unsuitable and to demonstrate the democratic process.</li> </ul> <p>Ms Riches considers the SCI to be unsound in relation to Test 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The process does not apply limitations on applications that might render an imbalance in the provision of certain commercial or social developments. She recommends that the SCI should refer to the role of the Stevenage Partnership in considering such applications and that the Partnership should be prepared to oppose such applications; should prevent an excess, over-dominance or under-provision of certain developments; and should limit the power of developers to dictate developmental demands to the Council to the</li> </ul>	<p>Ms Riches believes that Local Area Committees should have a greater role in commenting on planning applications. (For information, Local Area Committees are open forums where issues about the local area can be raised and discussed. There are 6 such Committees in Stevenage – each one broadly correlating with a neighbourhood area of the town – which meet approximately 4 times a year. They are chaired by a Member and attended by at least one senior officer). As the Committees are chaired by Members, and all Members of the Council receive the weekly planning application list, planning applications of relevance to that local area can be raised and discussed. However, as the Committees meet every three months, their ability to discuss and comment upon planning applications is constrained. This is not an issue that the SCI can alter. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>Summary reports prepared by the Council do contain reference to significant opposing or conflicting views. The reports also contain justification as to why a particular recommendation has been reached, and why opposing or conflicting views cannot be incorporated. <u>No changes proposed.</u></p> <p>The Stevenage Partnership (the local strategic partnership) comprises groups from the public, private and voluntary sector. The Partnership has the same rights as any other consultee to comment upon planning applications. Although the Council is part of the Partnership, it has no authority to require the Partnership to be prepared to oppose applications which render “an imbalance in the provision of certain commercial or social developments.” <u>No changes proposed.</u></p>

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detriment of the community.	The Council cannot dictate or control the nature, type, size, use of planning application proposals. Any party has the right to object and all objections will be taken into consideration along with Government guidance, District Plan policies, etc in the determination of a planning application. The determination of such applications is not industry or commercial led. Applications are determined on a case-by-case basis and on individual merit. <u>No changes proposed.</u>