



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Response to the request for an amendment
to the Introduction (paragraphs 1.1 – 1.14)**

5th July 2011

Introduction

In her e-mail of 4th July, the Inspector raised the issue regarding whether a non-soundness change is required to delete paragraphs 1.1 to 1.14 of the Core Strategy.

Council's Response

The Council agrees that these paragraphs should be revised to reflect the most up-to-date position, and to provide a more general introduction that covers what the Core Strategy is and an overview of its content. References to what stage we have reached including details regarding consultation and submitting representations will be removed.

Proposed changes will be added to the Schedule of Proposed Changes (CD 12.4) to this effect at **300.50**.

The following proposed changes to the Introduction will be added to the Schedule of Proposed Changes (CD 12.4) to this effect at **300.50**.

~~1.1 In September 2004, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act came into effect and changed the planning system requiring each Council to replace its existing land use development plan with a new “spatial” development plan — the Local Development Framework.~~

~~What Is The Local Development Framework?~~

~~1.2 The Local Development Framework (LDF) will be made up of a “portfolio” of documents that in combination deal with the spatial issues that will affect the Borough over the next 15 years. That means that it will address spatial planning issues such as where new houses should be built; where new businesses and jobs should be located and developed; what improvements should be made to transport and community infrastructure to service this new development; and the areas that should be safeguarded from development and improved for recreation and environmental reasons.~~

~~What Is The Core Strategy?~~

~~1.3 The Core Strategy is the first Development Plan Document (DPD) to be prepared in Trafford under the new planning system. It outlines the Council's vision for the sort of place we want Trafford to be in the period up to 2026, and how we envisage managing the change necessary to achieve this vision. It establishes a balance between growth, regeneration and environmental protection / improvement.~~

~~1.4 The Core Strategy provides the strategic framework against which decisions about the use of land can be planned. It does not restate national planning guidance, but instead provides the local expression of these higher level strategies. Together with relevant national and local guidance, it will be the starting point for determining planning applications. Applications for development, submitted following the adoption of the Core Strategy, but prior to the adoption of the Land Allocations DPD and other such DPDs, need not necessarily be deemed premature, providing that the proposed development is in accordance with all relevant aspects of the Core Strategy.~~

~~1.5 The Core Strategy sets a monitoring and implementation framework that will be kept up to date. This will measure the effectiveness of the policies in the LDF, and will signal if any changes need to be made to any of the policies to enable the vision to be delivered.~~

~~What Stage Have We Reached?~~

~~1.6 This document is the Publication version of Trafford's Core Strategy and has been produced following extensive public consultation, evidence gathering, sustainability appraisal and joint working with neighbouring authorities and key agencies.~~

~~1.7 Given the current uncertainty associated with the status of Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), this Plan has been considered fully to assess the extent to which it contains policies that seek to rely on RSS Policies. Where RSS Policies continue to~~

~~have particular relevance to Trafford, this Core Strategy seeks to adapt and incorporate elements of those policies that the Council wishes to see maintained at the local level. Once further clarity has been provided by CLG, the Council will give consideration as to whether any further amendments are needed to the Plan and what action would be required to give effect to those changes.~~

~~1.8 This Plan has been prepared for consultation prior to submission to the Secretary of State for Examination by an Independent Inspector. You are therefore invited to consider the contents of this document and supporting documents and submit details of any changes that you consider are needed, together with an explanation as to why you consider these changes are necessary to make it “sound”, prior to the Submission of the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State. **It should be noted that the Inspector is not obliged to consider any previous representations that have been made in respect of this Plan. You are urged, therefore, to re-state any previously submitted representations that, in your view, remain valid and that you wish the Inspector to consider.** Comments should be submitted to the Strategic Planning and Developments Team **no later than 1st November 2010.**~~

~~1.9 The Core Strategy is scheduled for Adoption in late 2011.~~

The Document Structure

~~1.10 Part A of the Plan sets the context within which this Plan is set. It provides a profile of Trafford and its “places”. Having identified the key places and issues that characterise Trafford, the Core Strategy Vision is set out, followed by a number of Strategic Objectives and Place Objectives. The Core Strategy Vision is the spatial expression of the Trafford Partnership’s Sustainable Community Strategy and signals what this Core Strategy is seeking to achieve in Trafford up to 2026.~~

~~1.11 The Strategic Objectives together with the Place Objectives form the link between the high level Vision and the Delivery Strategy.~~

~~1.12 Part B of the Plan provides the Delivery Strategy, beginning with the Key Diagram (which provides a visual representation of the Vision and Objectives), followed by the Strategic Locations and Core Policies. Combined, these elements demonstrate how the Vision and Objectives will be achieved over the life-time of the Plan.~~

~~1.13 Part C covers the management of the Plan and sets out the Implementation framework and a Monitoring mechanism to ensure the Core Strategy is delivering its objectives.~~

~~1.14 The Core Strategy is supported by a comprehensive evidence base, which can be found listed in the Core Documents’ List. It has also been subject to an independent Sustainability Appraisal that is available as a separate document. Further details of the appraisal process and the outcomes can be found in the accompanying document “Sustainability Appraisal of Trafford’s Core Strategy”.~~

What Is The Core Strategy?

1.1 The Trafford Core Strategy is part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) for the Borough, and it has been prepared in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The LDF will replace the Revised Trafford Unitary Development Plan as the local plan to guide development over the next 15 years and beyond. The Core Strategy, in specific, will provide the strategic framework against which decisions about the use of land can be planned.

1.2 The Core Strategy provides the overall spatial strategy for the LDF. It sets out what change is necessary, where and when, and how it is going to be managed and delivered. It establishes a balance between growth, regeneration and environmental protection and improvement to ensure that Trafford becomes a place where people want to live, learn, work and relax, in the period up to 2026 and beyond.

1.3 The Core Strategy Spatial Profile identifies the land use and development issues facing Trafford up to 2026 and considers the range of social, economic and environmental characteristics of the Borough. The Core Strategy provides the local spatial expression of national planning policies and of the Trafford Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for the Borough. It has also been developed to reflect the priorities of other local plans and strategies of the Council and its partners.

1.4 The Vision sets down the framework for a more sustainable Borough. The Strategic Objectives together with the Place Objectives form the link between the Vision and the Delivery Strategy and need to be met if the Vision is to be realised. The Delivery Strategy, including the Key Diagram, Strategic Locations and Core Policies demonstrate how the Vision and Objectives will be achieved. Finally, the implementation framework sets out a monitoring mechanism to ensure the Core Strategy is delivering its objectives and addressing the identified issues.

Sustainability Appraisal

1.45 During its preparation, the Trafford Core Strategy has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) as an ongoing process. The overall approach used is based on the process set out in the Government's guidance on Sustainability Appraisal (November 2005) and has been conducted in line with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations.

1.46 The Sustainability Appraisal process concluded that the Core Strategy Vision, Objectives and Delivery Strategy have the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

1.47 The Core Strategy has also been subject to a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report as required under European and Domestic regulations. Further details can be found in the accompanying document "Habitat Regulations Assessment - Screening Report". As a result of this report, a more detailed Assessment was undertaken on the possible effects development within the Strategic Locations and the Core Policies may have on the Manchester Mosses SAC.

1.48 This Assessment concluded that, providing mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, development within the identified areas could proceed without harm being caused to the special interest of the Manchester Mosses Special Conservation Area (SAC). It is recognised that the implementation of such plans, policies and strategies may restrict the scale and type of development brought forward in the identified Locations, but that it is not justifiable to restrict development *per se* in these areas

Evidence Base

1.49 In preparing this document we have used the most up to date information available and have commissioned research and a number of surveys to complement existing information. This evidence gathering is an on-going process and will be used to inform and update the LDF. A list of the documents used to support this Core Strategy can be found in the Core Documents' List, which is available on the Council's website.