



# **TRAFFORD COUNCIL**

## **Scoping for the Proposed Further Work to be carried out in relation to the Trafford Core Strategy**

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

## **Introduction**

Following discussions at a number of the hearing sessions of the Trafford Core Strategy Examination, the Council has now given further consideration to the need to carry out additional work in relation to certain elements of the Trafford Core Strategy.

The purpose of this note is to provide the Inspector and interested parties with the scope of this work. It should be noted however that this document represents the broad outline of the nature of this additional work, as such it may be necessary for the details of the published documentation to vary in content as this further work is progressed.

The proposed further work to be carried out at this stage is in relation to three areas of the Core Strategy:

- The Regional Centre and Inner Areas Boundaries;
- Policy L5 – Climate Change and;
- The proposed inclusion of the Unitary Development Plan High Amenity Strategic Development Site, at Davenport Green, within the Green Belt.

## **The Regional and Inner Areas Boundaries**

Following discussion at Hearing Session 1 of the Core Strategy Examination the Inspector requested that the Council re-consider its approach, within the Core Strategy, to the Regional Centre and Inner Areas Boundary. In particular the Inspector requested that the Council considers amending Figure 1 to show diagrammatically the Regional Centre and Inner Areas within Trafford or alternatively delete Figure 4 and show this information on the Key Diagram, and add text to paragraph 2.10 to clarify that the precise boundaries described in that paragraph will be defined in the Land Allocations DPD.

In direct response to this, the Council, initially, considered that it would be appropriate to remove the detailed boundaries from the Core Strategy; define the areas in words within the Core Strategy and; propose detailed boundaries within the Land Allocations DPD, having first presented realistic and justified options for consultation.

Since producing this initial response, in CD 12.53.2, the Council has given further consideration to the matter and considers that it would be both positive and appropriate to undertake the consultation on possible options for the Regional Centre and Inner Areas boundaries as part of the Core Strategy process. In this way the Council will not be deferring a key strategic spatial decision to a lower order DPD, which could be considered to be contradictory to Government and PINS guidance.

As part of the consultation documentation to be produced in accordance with the timetable set out below, the Council will select preferred boundaries from realistic and justified options. The selection process will be informed by a number of documents, including new Sustainability Appraisal (SA) work as appropriate.

## **Policy L5 – Climate Change**

At the eighth Hearing session of the Trafford Core Strategy Examination the Inspector considered that, in its submitted form, Policy L5 is not effective and it is unclear if it is justified and thus invited the Council to re-write both the policy text and its justification in a manner that its requirements can be easily and clearly

understood; its mechanisms for delivery are realistic and transparent and; its implications for development can be readily understood by developers both in isolation and as part of the overall package of costs imposed on development by the Core Strategy.

In the light of these comments, the Council proposes to recast this policy, subject it to further Sustainability Appraisal and publish it for consultation as set out below.

### **Davenport Green**

Following the announcement made by David Park, legal representative of the Council, at the outset of proceedings relating to Matter 3, the Council requested its Sustainability Appraisal Consultants to undertake a review of all the information submitted by RLAM since the Trafford Core Strategy Publication Document was published in September 2010. As part of this process, the Council's SA consultant has been in dialogue with RLAM's SA consultants. As a result of this work, the Council proposes to carry out further work as follows:-

- Re appraise the February SA of Davenport Green using all the information submitted by RLAM, incorporating a more detailed commentary to address concerns raised by RLAM in their November submission and their response to the February SA consultation (CD 12.43.3).
- Reappraise the SA of Policy R4 - Green Belt and Other Protected Open Land, taking into account impacts of returning Davenport Green to the Green Belt.
- Clarify the chronology of decisions made in relation to Davenport Green with regard to the evolution of the Core Strategy Options.
- Clarify the stages undertaken in the Sustainability Appraisal process with particular emphasis on the Council's conclusion in relation to land at Davenport Green.

### **Consultation Arrangements**

It is proposed that the new documentation summarised above should be subject to a 3 week consultation period. The Council is proposing that this consultation period should take place between 18<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The Council is proposing to request that this consultation be administered by the Programme Officer and her assistant, in a similar way to that undertaken in February 2011.

### **Implications for the Examination Hearing Timetable**

The Council considers that it will take a further four weeks to complete the consultation documentation, and taking account of the bank holidays in April, the Council considers that it would be appropriate for the resumed Examination sessions to take place in the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011, rather than the provisional dates offered in the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The Council can confirm that suitable accommodation exists at Trafford Town Hall on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011.