

Local Development Framework

Statement of Community Involvement



Consultation Draft | September 2005

Operational Services - Planning

Huntingdonshire
district council

www.huntsdc.gov.uk

Local Development Framework

Statement of Community Involvement

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The draft Statement of Community Involvement sets out the Council's approach for consulting and participating with the community during the preparation of the Local Development Framework and in determining planning applications. Your views are important to us and this is your opportunity to influence when and how the Council involve the community in relation to planning. The comments received on this draft will be considered and taken into account in finalising the document.

You can comment on this draft SCI online via our interactive version at www.huntsdc.gov.uk or email your comments to us at ldf@huntsdc.gov.uk or write to us at the following address:

Planning Services
Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon
PE29 3TN

The deadline for comments is the Xth of November 2005

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1 Introduction

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1 Introduction

1.1 Planning affects all of our lives. The homes that we live in, the open spaces we enjoy, the leisure facilities we use and the roads we travel on are the result of planning decisions.

1.2 For many people the planning process itself is something that they know very little about. The only time they really become aware of it is when they are sent a letter from the Council about a development near to their home or to their place of work. Planning affects many things we do but is rarely in the forefront of our minds.

1.3 Huntingdonshire District Council recognises the importance of keeping residents and other stakeholders informed and believes in an open and transparent planning process. This document sets out the Council's commitment to engagement on planning issues with all residents and other stakeholders. It does this by setting out how the Council will engage residents and stakeholders throughout the process of:

- preparing documents which will form part of the Local Development Framework; and
- in the consultation procedures leading to decisions on planning applications

Understanding the SCI

1.4 There have recently been a number of changes to the planning system. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced new types of plan for shaping and guiding development, and new procedures for preparing them. The existing Local Plan will be replaced by a **Local Development Framework (LDF)**. The LDF will be made up of a number of documents that will set out planning policies and proposals for the area.

1.5 A key objective of the new planning system is to strengthen community involvement and generate a shared vision and strategy for how the area should develop to achieve more sustainable patterns of development. Because of this one of the first documents that the Council is producing as part of its LDF is this **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**.

1.6 The SCI sets out how the Council intends to involve residents and other stakeholders in the process of preparing its LDF and determining planning applications. It explains how the many different individuals and groups within the district will be given the opportunity to influence the future shape of the area.

1.7 In producing and implementing the SCI the Council hopes to meet the following objectives:

- a. to increase community awareness and understanding about when and how they can get involved in the production of new plans and influence planning decisions;
- b. to seek wide involvement from all sections of Huntingdonshire's communities and stakeholders to identify how planning will work with them to deliver sustainable communities;
- c. to strengthen the evidence base for plans and planning decisions, by understanding community needs and aspirations;
- d. to help identify opportunities for 'joining up' consultation processes where possible, to maximise cost effectiveness and to avoid consultation overload.

Guiding principles

Our goal is that everyone with an interest in the district has access to early and effective opportunities for getting involved in planning issues that affect them.

1.8 The District Council has adopted a Communications and Consultation Strategy, which underlines the vital role of community views in developing and delivering our services. It also



recognises that successful involvement relies upon methods that are appropriate and responsive. This is especially important in planning, where the process of preparing plans and dealing with planning applications can be complex and involve many stages.

1.9 In view of this we will follow a number of principles to help achieve our goal. We will:

- **Communicate clearly** about what is being proposed, and when and how you can get involved
- **Make it easy to get involved** by using techniques that are convenient and reach as many people as possible (especially those groups with little previous involvement)
- **Make involvement effective** by seeking views early enough to make a difference, by asking appropriate questions and by considering comments carefully
- **Provide feedback** on our responses to your suggestions, and keep you informed about the next steps in the process
- **Improve our techniques** by learning from experience and co-ordinating consultation activities where we can

The plans we are producing

1.10 The LDF will contain three types of documents that set out planning policies for the area. The first are plans (known as **Development Plan Documents** or **DPDs**) that contain general policies that apply to the whole district (e.g. the Core Strategy); the second are **DPDs** that propose specific sites for development (e.g. for housing or employment); and the third are documents that contain detailed supplementary guidance about a particular topic or area (**Supplementary Planning Documents**).

1.11 More information about producing each type of document can be found in Chapter 3. Details of the content and timetable for specific documents can be found in the Council's **Local Development Scheme (LDS)** which can be viewed on our website www.huntsdc.gov.uk.

Preparing the SCI

1.12 There are five main stages involved in preparing this SCI:

- a. Initial consultation and research with communities and stakeholders
- b. **Public consultation on draft Statement of Community Involvement (current stage)**

- c. Statement of Community Involvement submitted to the Secretary of State (expected April 2006), followed by further public consultation
- d. Independent examination into the proposals (expected July 2006)
- e. Receipt of Inspector's report (binding upon the Council) and adoption (expected late 2006)

1.13 Once the Council formally adopts the SCI it must comply with the standards of public participation contained within it when preparing and reviewing relevant documents in the Local Development Framework and dealing with planning applications.

1.14 The Council aims to meet not only the minimum standards set by Regulations but also to undertake a wider range of community involvement as described later. If the Council fails to meet the standards set out in the SCI it could result in plans being unable to progress to adoption and leave Supplementary Planning Documents open to challenge.

1.15 All Development Plan Documents are subject to a public examination which considers whether they are 'sound', as defined in government guidance. One test of soundness is that the document has been prepared in accordance with the approved SCI (or



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the relevant Regulations if the SCI is not yet adopted).

Reviewing the SCI

1.16 The SCI is not intended to be a static document. It is expected that it will change over time as we learn from our efforts to involve people, and in response to feedback from our stakeholders. We will be producing an **Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)** to assess progress in producing and implementing the LDF, including the contribution made by public involvement. It may also be possible to make some assessment of how successful the methods used have been by getting participants to evaluate their effectiveness at appropriate points in the process.

1.17 The success of community involvement in dealing with planning applications will be monitored through feedback from stakeholder surveys and changes will be considered where necessary.

1.18 Any proposal to review or amend the SCI in due course will be highlighted in future editions of the Local Development Scheme.

Links with other forms of involvement

1.19 The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that its approach to the LDF is consistent with and informed by other strategies, plans and

initiatives such as the Regional Spatial Strategy, Huntingdonshire Community Strategy and the Council's Communication and Consultation Strategy.

1.20 In particular the LDF is a key mechanism for taking forward those aspects of the Community Strategy that have spatial implications, and we will ensure that stakeholder involvement in future reviews of that strategy is used to inform relevant parts of the LDF. Similarly the views and suggestions made in the course of preparing the first LDF documents will themselves help to inform work to review the Community Strategy.



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2 Involving people in planning

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2 Involving people in planning

Techniques of involvement

2.1 There are number of established techniques that can be used to seek opinions from residents and other stakeholders. Table 2.1 considers the strengths and weaknesses of a range of techniques and gives an idea of their relative costs in terms of staff time and money.

2.2 Those shown as 'legal requirements' are ones which the government says we must use at key stages in preparing plans or dealing with planning applications.

2.3 The techniques listed as 'additional options' are commonly-used methods that go beyond the legal minimum. This list is not exhaustive and not all of the methods are necessarily appropriate for all plans or planning applications.

2.4 The following chapters explain which techniques we will use for involving residents and other stakeholders in plan-making and dealing with planning applications. These are not fixed proposals - as the previous chapter explained we are likely to review the SCI from time to time, and we will look at adopting new and innovative approaches that come forward, particularly if these relate to communities' preferred methods of involvement.

Table 2.1 Techniques of involvement

Method & Description	Strengths	Weaknesses	Staff Resources	Financial Cost
LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:				
Documents for inspection at offices and other locations e.g. libraries, e-learning points	Gives detailed information	Only available during certain hours; excludes people with poor language skills	Low	Low
Statutory notice in press/site Notices	Gives basic details	Not well-read by public; limited information	Low	Medium
Letters to statutory consultees/neighbours	Request feedback on specific issues	Expensive if consultation material is sent with letters	Medium	Medium
Website	Large volumes of detailed information can be displayed; enables people to comment online 24 hours a day; accessible to some hard to reach groups	Not everyone has access to the Internet; information needs to be easily found	Medium	Low/Medium

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Method & Description	Strengths	Weaknesses	Staff Resources	Financial Cost
ADDITIONAL OPTIONS				
Questionnaires, surveys	Quick, reaches a large number of people; can be targeted to specific audience; easy to analyse data	Can have low response rates; can exclude people with poor language skills	Medium	Medium
District Wide Magazine	Is sent to all households in the district every quarter; provides good introduction to main issues	Not always read by everyone in the household; timing is not always appropriate	Medium	Medium
Media - TV, radio advertising, newspaper advertising and articles	Can reach a large number of people; statutory requirement to advertise some planning applications in newspapers	TV and radio advertising is expensive; relies on the co-operation of editor/producer	Medium	High
Meetings	Allows communities to give views in verbal form; useful to discuss specific issues affecting communities; can enable direct contact with particular stakeholders	Can be time consuming to hold individual meetings with all interested parties; public meetings can be dominated by a vocal minority or hijacked by single issue groups; those attending may not be representative of the wider community	High	Low
Unstaffed/staffed exhibitions	Information can be displayed in different format; staff available to answer questions; can be held among communities directly affected by an issue(s)	Need to be held in number of accessible locations over various days and times to be successful	Medium	Medium
Presentations	Large volumes of detailed information can be displayed in understandable form; useful when aimed at specific groups - e.g. young people	Need to be held in a number of accessible locations at different times of the day to be successful	Medium	Medium
Workshops	Useful for discussions of specific topics	Group discussions may inhibit some members from taking part	High	Medium
Focus groups/citizens' panels	Useful to explore particular issues; opinions can be expressed in verbal format; can involve marginalised groups	Group discussions may inhibit some members from taking part; small groups unlikely to be a representative sample; could have recruitment difficulties	Medium	High
Surgeries (held by Councillors)	Often held at accessible locations throughout the district	Variation in the level of accessibility	N/A	N/A



2 Involving people in planning

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Resources

2.5 Our proposals for community involvement in the following chapters are based on a realistic assessment of the resources likely to be available over the next few years. The SCI suggests a level of involvement that is achievable, continuous and effective, but that will not raise public expectations to an unrealistic level.

2.6 Community involvement in producing the LDF will be carried out mainly by existing staff in the Development Plans section, while the Development Control section will take the lead on planning applications. Where an applicant is seeking pre-application advice about a major development proposal we will use a 'Development Team' approach which will be specifically tailored to the applicant's proposal. The team may involve staff from a number of different Council sections such as Development Control, Planning Policy, Highways, Environmental Health, Housing etc. as appropriate. A leaflet about the 'Development Team' can be obtained by contacting Planning Reception on 01480 388423/4

Our Stakeholders

2.7 We want to involve as many people as possible in the planning process. The local community involves not only people who live in the district but those whose work, leisure or other activities bring them to the area. Indeed, people may belong to more than

one interest group when it comes to specific planning issues or proposals.

2.8 In general terms we consider that the key groups we need to involve are:

- Residents (including 'hard to reach' groups)
- Town & parish Councils
- Local firms and business organisations
- Developers/agents/landowners
- Environmental, amenity & local history groups
- Community & voluntary groups
- Central, regional & local government
- Statutory bodies & infrastructure providers

2.9 We will seek to involve these groups as appropriate in producing planning policies or dealing with planning applications. There are some groups that we are required to consult by law, and a list of these is contained in the Appendix.

2.10 In terms of 'hard to reach' groups, we know that there are particular sections of the community that traditionally do not get involved in planning. Within Huntingdonshire we have identified the main 'hard to reach' groups as being young people, people with disabilities and ethnic minority groups.

2.11 Although older people are often identified by the Government as a 'hard to reach' group, recent consultation exercises in the district have shown that older people in this area do tend to participate,

particularly if they become aware of issues through the Council's magazine 'District Wide'.

2.12 When we seek to involve people in the planning process, where possible we will collect some basic information about respondents to establish which sections of the community have taken part and how representative the range of participants is. Through monitoring this information we will seek to establish which groups we have and have not reached through that particular type of consultation technique.

2.13 This information will enable us to target future consultation exercises effectively and, if necessary, justify the need to use additional techniques to reach particular 'hard to reach' groups. We will comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act if we need to collect any personal data for this purpose.



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3 Community involvement in making plans

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3 Community involvement in making plans

3.1 Although the first time that many people get involved in the planning system is when a planning application is being considered, this is not the most effective time to influence the way that the area will develop in future. For this it is best to get involved early on, when LDF documents are being prepared.

3.2 Getting involved at this stage gives everyone the best chance to put their opinions forward about the area's development. All planning applications will be judged against the principles set out in the LDF, so it is important that all those with an interest in the area's future are able to have a say at this stage.

Plan-making stages

3.3 Chapter 1 introduced the different types of planning policy documents that the Council will be producing. These are Development Plan Documents (DPDs - setting out general policies for the area, or making site-specific proposals for development) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs - containing more detailed guidance for specific topics or areas).

3.4 All of these documents will go through similar stages of production, although simplified arrangements apply to SPDs. The main stages are:

- a. **Evidence-gathering/options** - Collection of information to identify issues and possible options. For DPDs a document setting out the options will be produced which may be accompanied by technical papers or reports. At this stage the Council will consult relevant stakeholder groups to help ensure that all the options have been identified.
- b. **Preferred options** - Sets out the Council's preferred policy approach or preferred site proposals. Residents and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the preferred approach and other options for a period of six weeks. All representations will be considered by the Council, and used to revise the approaches taken if appropriate.
- c. **Submission** - For DPDs, after the preferred options the Council will produce a draft plan for submitting to the Government. Residents and other stakeholders will again have six weeks to comment. All representations will then be considered at a public examination chaired by an independent Inspector. In the case of SPDs, the Council will be able to adopt its proposals once it has considered the response to its preferred options.
- d. **Examination** - For DPDs a Planning Inspector will conduct the public examination. The Council will publicise this event six weeks before it

begins. The inspector will consider the representations and produce a report with recommendations, which the Council must follow. The Council will then adopt the DPD as soon as practicable following the receipt of the Inspector's report.

3.5 Table 3.1 below sets out the different stages alongside the ways that we propose to involve residents and other stakeholders in the process. There are national Regulations that require the Council to undertake certain forms of publicity and consultation at each stage (indicated by 'legal requirements'), but we propose to do more than this to help meet our goal and principles for public involvement (see chapter 1).

3.6 The submission and examination stages are omitted for SPDs as they do not apply. A 'yes' in the table indicates that the technique will definitely be used for that stage of the process, whereas a 'possibly' indicates that it may be used, subject to the availability of resources and likely level of interest in the proposals.



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Techniques	GENERAL POLICIES (DPDs)				SITE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS (DPDs)				DETAILED GUIDANCE (SPDs)	
	Evidence /options	Preferred options	Submission	Examination	Evidence /options	Preferred options	Submission	Examination	Evidence /options	Preferred options
LEGAL REQUIREMENTS										
Documents for inspection	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Statutory notices in press/site notice	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Letters to statutory consultees	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	possibly	yes
Website	possibly	yes	yes	yes	possibly	yes	yes	yes	possibly	yes
ADDITIONAL OPTIONS										
questionnaires, surveys	possibly	possibly	possibly	no	possibly	yes	possibly	no	possibly	possibly
district wide magazine	possibly	yes	yes	possibly	possibly	yes	yes	possibly	possibly	possibly
media	possibly	possibly	possibly	possibly	possibly	possibly	possibly	possibly	possibly	possibly
meetings	possibly	possibly	possibly	no	possibly	possibly	possibly	no	possibly	possibly
unstaffed/staffed exhibitions	no	possibly	possibly	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	possibly
presentations	possibly	yes	possibly	no	no	yes	possibly	no	no	possibly
workshops	possibly	possibly	no	no	possibly	possibly	possibly	no	possibly	possibly
focus groups/panels	possibly	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	possibly	no

Table 3.1 Proposed arrangements for public involvement in plan production



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Sustainability appraisal

3.7 All DPDs and SPDs that we produce will undergo 'sustainability appraisal'. This is a process which assesses the extent to which emerging policies and proposals will help to achieve broad environmental, social and economic objectives.

3.8 Sustainability appraisal is carried out in parallel with plan production, and we will consult stakeholders on the findings at each stage of the process:

- At the **evidence-gathering/options** stage we will consult key stakeholders⁽ⁱ⁾ about the scope of the appraisal required and, if appropriate, about the results of any initial work to appraise different options.
- At the **preferred options** stage we will consult residents and other stakeholders about the outcome of the options appraisal, at the same time that we consult on our preferred policy approaches.
- At the **submission** stage we will again consult residents and other stakeholders on the appraisal of the submitted plan.

3.9 We will carry out these consultations by making the appraisal documents available for inspection and publicising them through statutory notices, letters to statutory consultees and our web site (in parallel with publicity about the DPD or SPD that the appraisal supports).

Listening and responding

3.10 At each stage that we involve people in producing the various Local Development Framework documents, residents and stakeholders will be asked to make comments either in writing or on standard forms which will be available in both printed and electronic format.

3.11 Some of the documents that we produce will also have an interactive version available on our web site so that people can comment directly online. Where we use discussions to help gather opinions (such as meetings and focus groups) we will ensure that the main themes and conclusions are documented.

3.12 At the end of each stage of involvement we will analyse the views and suggestions made and prepare a summary of the comments and our responses which will be published on our web site.

Where possible we will also send a response by letter or e-mail to respondents as soon as is reasonably practical informing them that the summary report is available.

3.13 The Council's magazine 'District Wide' will be also be used where appropriate to communicate the overall themes of the comments received, along with details about the next stage of the production of the particular document.

ⁱ These stakeholders will include as a minimum the four 'consultation bodies' named in *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*: the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency. We will also seek to consult stakeholders that have key social and economic responsibilities.



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4 Community involvement in planning decisions

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4 Community involvement in planning decisions

4.1 The Council receives planning applications from people who want to do anything from extending their house to building a new shopping centre. Planning applications must be determined in accordance with the Council's adopted planning policies (and those in strategic plans covering the area), unless there are other reasons for granting or refusing the application.

4.2 We believe that it is important that residents and other stakeholders have the opportunity to get involved in decisions about planning applications. Although major applications may affect the most people, it is just as important for communities to be able to make their views known about smaller proposals that may affect them.

Before an application is made

4.3 Although the majority of planning applications are submitted without any prior discussion with the Council, anyone considering applying for planning permission can approach us for an informal view prior to submitting a formal application.

4.4 Any advice given at this stage provides an opportunity to clarify whether the proposal is likely to

be acceptable in principle. This advice is not binding on the Council, but can have benefits for the applicant by helping to identify and resolve possible problems at an early stage, generate better design solutions and as a result save time and money later in the process.

4.5 When major developments are being contemplated we will encourage the developers to discuss their ideas with local residents, interest groups and statutory consultees such as the Highways Agency and the Environment Agency at an early stage.

4.6 We will be happy to advise developers about when and how they might involve the community before submitting an application, based on the significance of the proposals for the community and previous planning history and experience. In the interests of impartiality, we would expect developers to take the lead in engaging stakeholders that are likely to be affected by their proposals prior to an application being made, and to bear the costs of this activity. Council officers would not be involved except in facilitating discussions where necessary.

4.7 Where an applicant has involved other stakeholders before submitting a planning application, we will expect a statement to be submitted with the application outlining what was done, who was involved and what the outcomes have been.

4.8 Although we cannot refuse to accept valid planning applications because we are unhappy with the extent or methods of community involvement, failure to consult may lead to objections being made by stakeholders which could be important when determining the application.

Influencing the decision

4.9 When a planning application is submitted to us we will, as a minimum, consult the public as required by Regulations (see Table 4.1). There may be a number of applications that need more consultation than the Regulations provide for, due to their scale and potential significance for the local community.

4.10 The main applications that fall into this category are major proposals which are likely to be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). In such cases we will offer to arrange presentations of the scheme to a meeting of the relevant town or parish council(s) which is open to the public.

4.11 In exceptional cases a planning proposal may be so significant that the Secretary of State will designate it as a 'major infrastructure project'. It will then be subject to a planning inquiry, where there will be opportunities for stakeholders to put their views before an independent Inspector, provided the necessary notification is given.



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Nature of development	Publicity required and consultation timescale
Application accompanied by Environmental Statement	Advertisement in local newspaper (14 days) (and where applicable publication of the notice on the website (no time period defined)) and site notice (21 days)
Proposal departs from Development Plan	As above
Development affecting public right of way	As above
Major development	Advertisement in local newspaper (14 days) (and where applicable publication of the notice on the website (no time period defined)) and either site notice (21 days) or neighbour notification (21 days)
Minor development	Site notice (21 days) or neighbour notification (21 days)
Development affecting the setting of a listed building	Advertisement in a newspaper (21 days) and site notice (7 days)
Development affecting the character or appearance of a conservation area	As above

Table 4.1 Basic consultation requirements for planning applications

4.12 Where there is a choice regarding site notices or neighbour notification, we will send neighbour notification letters to properties immediately adjoining the site so long as the relevant property addresses are easily identified. For major applications we will put up site notices as well as sending out neighbour notification letters, if there are residents in the vicinity of the site.

4.13 If there are any significant amendments made to a planning application, we will re-notify neighbours by letter if the amendment is likely to have additional impacts, if they have written asking to be notified of amendments or if they objected to the original planning application.

4.14 Representations on planning applications can be made in writing to the Council or on-line via our 'Public Access' planning information system at www.huntsdc.gov.uk (go to the planning pages).

4.15 All representations and comments received are considered in determining planning applications, so long as they raise 'material planning considerations'. Some things are not 'material planning considerations', such as the impact of a scheme on property values, and therefore cannot be taken into account.

4.16 If an applicant is refused planning permission by us (or conditions are attached that they disagree with), they can appeal against the decision. Only applicants have this right of appeal under current

legislation. However everyone who was consulted on the original planning application will be advised by us that an appeal has been received and told how they can make their views known.

After the decision is made

4.17 Once we have made a decision about a planning application, anyone who has made representations will be notified of the decision by letter. Planning decisions are also available to view via the Public Access facility on our website at www.huntsdc.gov.uk.

4.18 In the case of appeals, the Planning Inspectorate will be responsible for notifying objectors once a decision is made.



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5 Getting in contact

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5 Getting in contact

Contacting Planning Services

5.1 If you have any questions about **planning policies** or the Local Development Framework you can contact the Planning Policy team using this e-mail address: ldf@huntsdc.gov.uk. Alternatively you can speak to the team on 01480 388432/3/4/5.

5.2 If you have any questions about **planning applications** you can contact the Development Control section using this e-mail address: Developmentcontrol@huntsdc.gov.uk. Alternatively you can speak to a team support officer on 01480 388468/388327/388426.

5.3 You can write to us at the following address:

Planning Services
Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon
PE29 3TN

Other sources of advice

5.4 You can contact your local district councillor for advice. Their details can be found on our website at: www.huntsdc.gov.uk

5.5 If you would like help from outside the Council you may be able to use the services provided by Planning Aid. Planning Aid provides free, independent and professional advice on town and country planning issues to individuals and groups who cannot afford to pay for a planning consultant.

5.6 A telephone helpline is staffed by a qualified planner for three days a week for people needing planning advice in the East of England. The planning advice helpline is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30am to 5.30pm. The number is 0870 850 9801. Alternatively you can e-mail them at eecw@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk.



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6 Appendix: statutory consultees

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6.1 There are various bodies that we are required⁽ⁱ⁾ to consult when preparing planning policies for the area (i.e. when we are producing Development Plan Documents or Supplementary Planning Documents), if the subject matter is likely to be relevant to their interests. These include:

- The East of England Regional Assembly (as the Regional Planning Body)
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Adjoining local planning authorities
- Town & parish councils in Huntingdonshire
- Adjoining town & parish councils
- The Countryside Agency
- The Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- English Nature
- The Highways Agency
- The Strategic Rail Authority
- Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority
- East of England Development Agency
- East Midlands Development Agency
- Relevant telecommunications companies
- Relevant electricity and gas companies
- Relevant sewerage and water undertakers

6.2 We are also obliged to consult with a wider range of 'general consultation bodies' identified locally, and again as appropriate to the document being produced.

The types of organisation that we will regard as general consultation bodies for this purpose are indicated in broad terms in chapter 2 of this document (paragraph 2.8).

6.3 When we receive planning applications there is again a wide range of bodies that we may need to consult (specified in The General Development Procedure Order 1995 (GDPO)), but as a minimum we will consult the town and parish councils within Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire County Council on all planning applications.

i By the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004