

Decision as to Strategy

1. There is necessarily a chronological sequence as given by TCP (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012 No.767)
2. The first step is preparation of a Local Plan (Regulation 18)
3. Sevenoaks DC in respect of planning is structured as follows:
 - a. Planning Advisory Committee (now known as Development and Conservation Advisory Committee)
 - b. Cabinet (acting as a committee)
 - c. Full Council
4. The bulk of decisions are taken by Cabinet
5. First relevant decision as to strategy is 13th July 2017. Cabinet agreed Issues and Options paper to go out for consultation (decision of Cabinet available online: <https://cds.sevenoaks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=2117&Ver=4&J=3>)
6. Decision was:
 - a) the Sevenoaks District Local Plan 2015 – 2035 Issues and Options document be agreed for public consultation; and
 - b) the finalisation of consultation questions and any non-substantive text amendments required in the document be delegated to the Chief Planning Officer following consultation with the Planning Portfolio Holder and Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning Advisory Committee.
7. The Issues and Options consultation document had a strategic approach at chapter 5 (page 22) (OD005). The Vision (page 19) was further housing with protection of the Green Belt, economic advantage and protection of the natural environment. This was accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal which continues to be available online: <https://planningconsult.sevenoaks.gov.uk/consult.ti/LP2017/consultationHome>
8. The consultation in connection with the Issues and Options ran from 3rd August 2017-5th October 2017. This was a Regulation 18 consultation (Regulation 18 seeks views as to what the Local Plan should contain).
9. Between 5 October 2017 and 19 June 2018, the Draft Local Plan was reported to Planning Advisory Committee on 23rd November 2017 (to provide an update on consultation responses) and on various other occasions prior to the 19th June 2018 on which date the Draft Local Plan consultation was recommended by PAC for agreement by the Cabinet, which took place on 12th July 2018. The matter had also been taken to Cabinet on 7 December and a number of occasions thereafter (before 12th July 2018).
10. The cabinet decision (12th July 2018):
 - (a) agreed the Draft Local Plan 2015 – 2035 document for public consultation; and
 - (b) delegated the finalisation of any non-substantive text amendments required in the document to the Chief Planning Officer following consultation with the Planning Portfolio Holder
 - (c) agreed the Local Plan timetable (LDS)
11. The Draft Local Plan (OD006) sets out a Vision and Objectives (page 13). This was similar to Vision and objectives within the Issues and Options document.

12. The consultation in connection with the Draft Local Plan ran from 16 July until 10 September 2018. This was a second Regulation 18 consultation, which like the first, involved in accordance with Regulation 18 notification being given by the LPA to bodies or persons referred to in Regulation 18. As both before and subsequently, all documents were available in accordance with Regulation 38.
13. The Draft Local Plan was accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal which was available during the consultation and is still available online on the consultation portal:
<https://planningconsult.sevenoaks.gov.uk/consult.ti/dlp2018/consultationHome>
14. The Proposed Submission Version of the Plan was considered by PAC on 22 November 2018, recommended to Cabinet by whom it was agreed on 6th December 2018, with consultation opening on 18th December 2018.
15. The report to PAC and Cabinet provided a summary of the outcome of the Draft Local Plan consultation. It set out the contents of the Regulation 19 Plan and was recommended that the Plan progress to publication and submission for examination, which recommendation was accepted by the Cabinet.
16. The report is available online:
<https://cds.sevenoaks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MIId=2238&Ver=4&J=2>
17. Paragraph 8.1-8.2 of the report drew attention to amongst other things, the Sustainability Appraisal, and other evidence based documents which informed the decision-making process.
18. Accordingly, by December 2018, a version of the Local Plan for examination had been decided upon and published for consultation with all material documents being available under Regulation 38. The Plan document contained a Vision and objectives similar to those previously mentioned.
19. The Regulation 19 Plan and Sustainability Appraisal were and still are available online:
<https://planningconsult.sevenoaks.gov.uk/consult.ti/PRESUBLP/consultationHome>
20. The Sustainability Appraisal reflects what is required by Section 19(5) of the PCPA (2004) whereby the LPA have to carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in each development plan document and prepare a report of the findings of the appraisal.
21. Subsequently, after consultation, the Full Council decided to submit the document for examination. This was on 26 March 2019. Thus the last decision as to strategy was the Cabinet on 6 December 2018, which was endorsed by the Full Council's decision to submit the Plan for examination.