

Summary of the Consultation Response

The Consultation Strategy

PPS 1 sets out the importance of community involvement from an early stage in the process of producing LDF documents. Given the scale and impact the development both city wide and at a regional level it is essential to ensure the widest possible involvement by the local community and stakeholders in the process of developing the Area Action Plan. The ideas and issues raised by the testing of the strategy for York Central have contributed to providing a more inclusive and representative Consultation Strategy. This work together with the Statement of Community Involvement will inform the consultation approach for the York Central/British Sugar AAP.

Testing Stage

Consultation on the draft Strategy was carried out between 27th July and 25th August this year. The testing stage was a focused consultation with the main stakeholder groups.

The consultation included

- Two workshop sessions with special interest groups and business interests
- Production and delivery of 3,200 leaflets to households and businesses in the York Central area
- Comments boxes and the draft strategy document made available at 9, St Leonards Place, the Guildhall and Central Library
- A section on the York Central web site on the consultation with the summary and a full document available to download
- A presentation on the Draft Strategy to the LDF Working Group on 31st July followed by Members input and comments

Summary of responses received

Social Regeneration Consultants have produced a Consultation Report which summarises the consultation responses received and is attached in Appendix 3. A Community Audit document was also undertaken to give background information on the community in the area, contacts for groups and suitable venues for meetings. This document is attached in Appendix 6.

The key issues raised in respect of the consultation process included

- The need to provide hard copies of documents and plans as well as the use of the internet to view documents, using key buildings accessible to the public to place them in

- The identification of a number of additional interest groups
- The need to clarify the boundaries for consultation
- The need to ensure timescales for consultation are programmed to avoid Christmas and the main holiday periods
- The need to provide a range of methods to ensure the widest choice for people to be engaged. Suggestions included, local residents associations and ward committees, exhibition material in the Guildhall, events in the residential areas, a 'have your say' web site, traditional meeting with plans tabled, newsletters and exhibitions in the City of York caravan

There was a considerable interest in the site and many comments were received relating to the development opportunities of the area. These were diverse and varied encompassing areas of access and transport, the development process, uses, open space and greenery, housing, design, heritage, railway uses and facilities. The comments are outlined in full on pages 9-25 of the Consultation Report which attached in Appendix 3.

Two workshop sessions were held on 3rd August at York St John College. A presentation was given and followed by a facilitated discussion with questions raised by participants. Reports have been prepared by SRC giving feedback on the workshops. A copy of these has been sent to all those who attended or requested the documents. These reports are included in the Appendices to the Consultation Report which are attached in Appendix 3.

Community Consultation Strategy

The draft Consultation Strategy has been revised to take account of these views and the amended document, the Community Consultation Strategy is attached to this report.

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report also took place in July to August this year. It is intended to report back to Members setting out responses and amendments arising from this as part of a revised Scoping Report for the Issues and Options stage for the wider York Central/British Sugar AAP. The revised Scoping report will be the subject of statutory consultation with the relevant environmental organisations.