

## **Bridgnorth Draft Statement of Community Involvement.**

### **Comments.**

#### **Matters Not Addressed in the Draft SCI.**

- The potential for joint consultation on LDDs with other strategies of the District Council .
- A brief general profile of the Bridgnorth area would help reflect local circumstances and give a context for the SCI.
- Hard to reach groups should be identified, based on sound evidence together with specific techniques/methods for engaging with such groups.
- The SCI would benefit from the identification of the methods of engaging local communities and at what particular stages they will be used, perhaps in the form of a matrix.
- A statement should be included in the SCI which highlights that “while a consensus will be sought by the LPA when engaging communities it may not always be achieved.
- The role of the AMR should be identified as a means of monitoring progress on the LDF and the effectiveness of the LDDs which are in place.
- The SCI should identify how regularly it is envisaged that it will be reviewed and what mechanisms will be put in place to trigger reviews.
- The fact that Bridgnorth is part of a two-tier local authority structure should be noted with an explanation of the types of planning applications dealt with by the relevant tiers.

#### **Detailed Comments.**

- Para 1.1- The term “involve” is used quite frequently throughout the draft document when referring to public consultation. The emphasis in the SCI should be on “engagement”.
- Para 1.3- The paragraph should be clarified to emphasise that once it is adopted engagement with the community on all LDDs and planning applications should be in accordance with the SCI.
- Para 1.6- Consideration should be given to the inclusion of a diagram (fig. 3.1 PPS12) to illustrate the key stages in the preparation of the SCI.
- Para 2.5- The role of the Proposals Map and the requirement for it to be revised as DPDs are adopted requires further explanation.
- Para 2.7- “Regional Spatial Strategy” should be cross-referenced with the glossary of terms. The paragraph should be rephrased to identify that the LDF will give spatial expression to the objectives of the Community Strategy.

- Para 3.10- A negative impression is created by the statement that DPDs “may take several years to adopt”, it may be appropriate to amend the paragraph to reflect the aims of the new system to be “quicker, simpler and more efficient”.
- Para 4.3- The SCI should set out principles for all planning applications not just “major” ones.
- Paras 4.6-4.11- It is good to see the evidence gathering for the draft SCI being identified and included. However, in the interests of making the SCI as succinct and user-friendly as possible, this may be better placed in an appendix rather than in the body of the document.
- Para 6.5- The Table should identify that a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report will be produced as part of evidence gathering.
- Para 6.6- The “Production” stage does not involve “drafting a DPD”. The spirit of the new system means that a broad range of issues and options are discussed through community engagement. Consideration should be given to the inclusion of a statement which emphasises that only representations made at Submission stage will be considered by an Inspector at an Examination.
- Para 7.2- Consideration should be given to the inclusion of fig4.2 of PPS12 to illustrate the stages of SPD preparation which would complement the text used.
- Appendix 5 – It should be noted that DEFRA can be consulted through the Government Office. The Government Departments as set out in Annex E of PPS12 should be identified in the consultee list.