



**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL**

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS  
& PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004**

**ADOPTION STATEMENT (REGULATION 16)**

**SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT  
SPD1 - DESIGNING FOR DEVELOPMENT BY MOBILE PHONE OPERATORS**

**Introduction**

This statement is prepared in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations 2004 and relates to Supplementary Planning Document – SPD1 – Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Operators, which was adopted by resolution of Wirral Borough Council on 30 October 2006.

This statement sets out:

- i. how environmental considerations have been integrated into SPD1 - Designing For Development By Mobile Phone Operators (the SPD);
- ii. how the opinions of consultees and the findings of the Environmental Report have been taken into account;
- iii. The reasons for choosing the SPD as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives, and;
- iv. The measures to be taken for monitoring any significant environmental effects arising from the implementation of the SPD.

**Background**

The statutory Consultation Bodies were consulted on the need to prepare an environmental report in August 2005. The final determination that an environmental report would be needed was made in December 2005. Consultation on the scope of the environmental report took place between 16 December 2005 and 27 January 2006. The main issue identified for further consideration was the potential impact on the landscape of the Borough.

The environmental report was published alongside the draft SPD in May 2006. The documents were made available for public inspection, free of charge at public counter of the Technical Services Department, at public libraries and on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/ldf/ldfspdtd.asp>. The comments received were set out in a Report of Consultation and used to inform amendments to the SPD as adopted.



## **Integration of environmental issues into the SPD and how the Environmental Report was taken into account.**

The SPD is primarily concerned with ensuring that the environmental impact of telecommunications development is kept to a minimum by providing additional guidance on siting, appearance and design. The environmental report, which was contained within the Sustainability Appraisal Report for the SPD, found that the introduction of the SPD would have a positive effect in protecting the appearance of the Borough's landscape.

## **How the opinions of consultees were taken into account**

The Countryside Agency welcomed the attention to landscape character in the SPD. Minor alterations were made to the SPD to clarify the approach to the conservation of historic areas and Areas of Special Landscape Value. Amendments to strengthen design advice were also included in the SPD. A full record of the changes made to the SPD are set out in the Report of Consultation.

## **The reasons for choosing the SPD as adopted over other reasonable alternatives**

The SPD was adopted in preference to the alternative of 'no change' because clarification on the implementation of UDP Policies TEL1 and TE1 would lead to a higher level of protection for the local landscape and would make a greater contribution to sustainable development.

## **Monitoring**

The impact of the operation of the adopted Supplementary Planning Document will be reported through the Council's statutory Annual Monitoring Report.

The Council proposes to monitor the number of proposals for telecommunications development and to monitor the number and impact of proposals affecting specially designated areas such as Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Areas of Special Landscape Value, and sites of local, national and European importance for nature conservation and earth science.