Contents

Core Strategy for Wirral - Spatial Options Report Questionnaire

1 Introduction

This paper copy questionnaire summarises the consultation questions set out in the Core Strategy for Wirral - Spatial Options Report (January 2010).

It is designed to enable people who may not feel comfortable answering the consultation questions on the on-line version of the Spatial Options Report to have their comments registered in writing using a standard format questionnaire.

This questionnaire should be submitted by post, e-mail or fax to arrive at the address below no later than 17.00 hours on Friday 5 March 2010.

The comments received will be used to help the Council decide on the Preferred Options for the Core Strategy which will then be used to influence the preparation of a full draft Plan.

The Council expects to consult on the Preferred Options, giving the reasons why they are preferred, in Spring 2010. A copy of a full draft Core Strategy will not be available until Summer 2010.

Additional copies of this questionnaire can be provided on request from the address below or can be downloaded from http://wirral-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal

For further information please contact: Wirral Council, Strategic Development, Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED - Telephone 0151 691 8206 - Fax 0151 691 8188 - Email pamconway@wirral.gov.uk

2 Spatial Portrait

The Council consulted on the main elements of a Spatial Portrait for the Borough in the Issues, Vision and Objectives Report in February 2009. This information has now been re-presented in series of Settlement Area profiles.

The Spatial Options Report sets out a brief description of the main features of the Borough followed by a description of the main Settlement Areas. The profiles also identify the main issues that may need to be addressed by the Core Strategy.

Consultation Question 1

Do you agree with the spatial portraits set out in the Spatial Options Report? Is there anything else that you think should be included?

Please refer to the Settlement Area to which you are referring in your response.

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3 Spatial Vision

The Council consulted on an initial Spatial Vision for Wirral in the Issues, Vision and Objectives Report in February 2009. The Spatial Options Report now sets out a revised Spatial Vision and provides additional background information on the wider context that has informed it.

Consultation Question 2

Do you agree with the amended Spatial Vision for Wirral?

If not, please give the reasons for your answer and indicate how you think it could be improved.

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4 Spatial Objectives

The Council consulted on twenty-nine potential strategic policy objectives in the Issues, Vision and Objectives Report in February 2009.

While the majority were well received, some respondents told us that the final objectives should be better focused on strategic spatial priorities, should be more geographically specific and should avoid re-stating national policy. The Council has therefore revised the initial long list of strategic policy objectives to concentrate on a shorter, simpler list of Spatial Objectives, that concentrate on the spatial priorities that are most likely to influence the future pattern of development across the Borough.

Consultation Question 3

Do you agree that these are the most appropriate Spatial Objectives for the Core Strategy to pursue? Is the wording correct or are any further changes needed? Are there any other Spatial Objectives that should be included?

Please refer to the number of the Spatial Objective in your reply and give the reasons for your answer.

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5 Spatial Options

The Spatial Options Report sets out three Broad Spatial Options for the future development of the Borough.

Broad Spatial Option 1 - Focused Regeneration

The first Broad Spatial Option would seek to maintain a very strong focus on growth and development within the older inner urban areas of east Wirral and other areas which are in the greatest need of social, economic and environmental regeneration.

Consultation Question 4

Does the Spatial Options Report set out a fair assessment of the likely implications of a Broad Spatial Option based on focused regeneration? Please give the reasons for your answer.

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Broad Spatial Option 2 - Balanced Growth

The second Broad Spatial Option would continue to maintain an emphasis on development within the the older inner urban areas of east Wirral but would also seek to direct growth more widely across the existing urban areas.

Consultation Question 5

Does the Spatial Options Report set out a fair assessment of the likely implications of a Broad Spatial Option based on balanced growth? Please give the reasons for your answer.

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Broad Spatial Option 3 - Urban Expansion

The third Broad Spatial Option would include a strategy of urban expansion, expanding the urban areas into areas which are currently designated as Green Belt.

Consultation Question 6

Does the Spatial Options Report set out a fair assessment of the likely implications of a Broad Spatial Option based on urban expansion? Please give the reasons for your answer.

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Consultation Question 7

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that Broad Spatial Option 1 - Focused Regeneration is most likely to be the preferred option for the future development of Wirral?

If not, please indicate which Broad Spatial Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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Consultation Question 8

Is there another Broad Spatial Option that you think the Council should consider before coming to a conclusion on the preferred options for the Core Strategy for Wirral?

If yes, please set out the main elements of the alternative Broad Spatial Option that you think the Council should consider.

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6 Other Policy Options

The Spatial Options Report includes a number of other policy options for inclusion in the Core Strategy.

6.1 Providing for Housing

Spatial Distribution of New Housing Development

The Spatial Options Report presents four main options for the distribution of new dwellings across the Borough:

- Policy Option HD1 would focus new housing development solely into the Mersey Heartlands Growth Point and the Newheartlands Pathfinder Area, in the older urban areas of east Wirral.
- Policy Option HD2 would extend the distribution of new development outside the Mersey Heartlands Growth Point and the Newheartlands Pathfinder into the wider area to the east of the M53 Motorway.
- Policy Option HD3 would distribute new development over a wider area outside the Mersey Heartlands Growth Point, across the whole of the Borough.
- Policy Option HD4 would deal with the situation where the Growth Point is unable to contribute sufficient dwellings to deliver the annual averages required, which would then need to made up elsewhere within the Borough.

Consultation Question 9

Does the Spatial Options Report set out a fair assessment of the available Policy Options for the spatial distribution of new housing development? Please give the reasons for your answer.

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that Policy Option HD1 is most likely to be the preferred option for the distribution of new housing? If not, please indicate which Policy Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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Consultation Question 9 (continued...)

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Phasing New Housing Development

The Spatial Options Report presents two main options for the overall approach to the phasing of new housing development in the Core Strategy:

- Policy Option HP1 would phase development across the Borough as a whole on the basis of a preferred order of the types of land that should be developed before others are considered.
- Policy Option HP2 would phase development in a similar way but within each Settlement Area. The same sequence of land types could be applied as under Policy Option HP1.

Consultation Question 10

Does the Spatial Options Report set out a fair assessment of the available Policy Options for the phasing of new housing development? Please give the reasons for your answer.

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that Policy Option HP2 is most likely to be the preferred option for phasing new housing? If not, please indicate which Policy Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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Order of Preference

Both of the Policy Options for phasing new housing development would involve prioritising the types of land that should be developed before other types of land are considered.

- East Wirral means land to the east of the M53 Motorway.
- West Wirral means land to the west of the M53 Motorway.
- Urban means land within the boundaries of the existing urban area
- Rural means land outside the boundary of the existing urban area
- Brownfield means land which has previously been developed.
- Greenfield means land which has not previously been developed including playing fields, open space and open countryside.

Consultation Question 11

Please place the following categories of land in order of priority for new housing development with "1" being the highest preference and "9" being lowest preference:

Category of Land	Order of Preference
Urban brownfield - in regeneration priority areas only	
Urban brownfield - in rest of east Wirral	
Urban brownfield - west Wirral	
Rural brownfield - east Wirral	
Rural brownfield - west Wirral	
Urban greenfield - east Wirral	
Urban greenfield - west Wirral	
Rural greenfield - east Wirral	
Rural greenfield - west Wirral	
Other (please specify below)	
Other (a):	
Other (b):	
Other (c):	

Affordable and Specialist Housing

The Spatial Options Report presents two main options for the delivery of affordable and specialist housing:

- Policy Option AH1 - set a Borough-wide target in the Core Strategy for new housing developments
- Policy Option AH2 - set targets for geographically specific areas, where evidence shows specific local needs

Consultation Question 12

Does the Spatial Options Report set out a fair assessment of the available Policy Options for the delivery of affordable and specialist housing within the Borough? Please give the reasons for your answer.

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that Policy Option AH1 is most likely to be the preferred option for the delivery of affordable and specialist housing? If not, please indicate which Policy Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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Gypsies and Travellers

The Spatial Options Report sets out two main options for providing accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers:

- Policy Option GT1 - set a geographically specific target in the Core Strategy
- Policy Option GT2 - set out criteria for the assessment of planning applications were they to be submitted, in the Core Strategy

Consultation Question 13

Does the Spatial Options Report set out a fair assessment of the available Policy Options for the approach to providing specialist accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers? Please give the reasons for your answer.

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that Policy Option GT2 is most likely to be the preferred option for providing for Gypsies and Travellers? If not, please indicate which Policy Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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6.2 Providing for Employment

The Spatial Options Report presents three main options for the distribution of new employment development across the Borough:

- Policy Option EL1 - Concentrate on identified strategic locations in east Wirral
- Policy Option EL2 - Concentrate on existing industrial areas and town centres across all of Wirral
- Policy Option EL3 - Identify a new long term strategic location outside the existing urban area

Consultation Question 14

Is this a fair assessment of the available Policy Options for the spatial pattern of new employment development? Please give the reasons for your answer.

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that Policy Option EL1 is most likely to be the preferred option for the pattern of future employment? If not, please indicate which Policy Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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6.3 Providing for Retailing

The Spatial Options Report sets out a revised hierarchy for the different sizes of shopping centre across the Borough, in Table 6.14:

Proposed Status	Centre
Sub-Regional Centre	Birkenhead Town Centre (including Grange Road West/Oxton Road and Argyle Street)
Town Centre	Liscard; Heswall; West Kirby; Moreton.
District Centre	Bromborough Village; Woodchurch Road (Prenton); Hoylake.
Local Centre	New Ferry; Upton Village; Wallasey Village; Tranmere Urban Village; Borough Road (Prenton Park); Claughton Village; Lower Bebington; Poulton Road (Seacombe); Victoria Road (New Brighton); Seabank Road (New Brighton); Laird Street; Dacre Hill; Irby Village; Oxton Village.

Table 6.14

Consultation Question 15

Do you agree with the proposed hierarchy of retail centres set out in Table 6.14? Are there any other centres that you think should be included? Please explain the reasons for your response.

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Providing for Additional Comparison Retail Floorspace

The Spatial Options Report presents two main options for the location of new non-food retail floorspace to help the Borough retain the spending of Wirral residents:

- Policy Option CR1 - Focus on Birkenhead Town Centre and Wirral Waters (vacant land within the Birkenhead Docklands)
- Policy Option CR2 - Focus on Wirral Waters alone (vacant land within the Birkenhead Docklands)

Consultation Question 16

Is this a fair assessment of the available Policy Options for accommodating future retail growth across the Borough? Are there any other Policy Options that should be considered? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that Policy Option CR2 is most likely to be the preferred option for accommodating future retail growth? If not, please indicate which Policy Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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6.4 Providing for Renewable, Decentralised and Low Carbon Energy

The Spatial Options Report sets out three main policy options for providing for alternative forms of energy generation within the Borough:

- Policy Option RE1 - set a Borough wide target(s) to be achieved by all types of development
- Policy Option RE2 - set a Borough wide target(s) to be achieved by specific types of development
- Policy Option RE3 - set geographically specific targets for each Settlement Area

Consultation Question 17

Is this a fair assessment of the available Policy Options for providing for the increased generation of renewable, decentralised and low carbon energy within the Borough? Please give the reasons for your answer.

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that a hybrid of Policy Options is most likely to be the preferred option for providing for renewable, decentralised and low carbon energy? If not, please indicate which Policy Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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6.5 Providing for Better Design

The Spatial Options Report includes three main options for the promotion of sustainable design and construction in the Core Strategy:

- Policy Option DE1 - Integrate requirements for improved design within each of the other policies within the Core Strategy
- Policy Option DE2 - Include a separate Borough wide design policy in the Core Strategy
- Policy Option DE3 - Include provision for geographically specific design policies within the Core Strategy

Consultation Question 18

Is this a fair assessment of the available Policy Options for the approach to securing the most appropriate design in new developments? Please give the reasons for your answer.

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that a hybrid of Policy Options is most likely to be the preferred option for securing better design in new developments? If not, please indicate which Policy Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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6.6 Providing for Development Management

The Spatial Options Report sets out two main options for providing for development management within the Core Strategy:

- Policy Option DM1 - include no specific policy in the Core Strategy but rely on other more detailed guidance provided outside the Core Strategy
- Policy Option DM2 - set out a list of general criteria within the Core Strategy

Consultation Question 19

Is this a fair assessment of the available Policy Options for providing criteria for development management decisions within the Borough? Please give the reasons for your answer.

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that Policy Option DM2 is most likely to be the preferred option for providing criteria for development management? If not, please indicate which Policy Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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6.7 Providing for Developer Contributions

The Spatial Options Report sets out two main options for securing developer contributions from new developments in the Core Strategy:

- Policy Option DC1 - set out an enabling policy to support requirements through legal agreements and obligations.
- Policy Option DC2 - set out an enabling policy to support requirements both through legal agreements and obligations and as part of a Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule.

Consultation Question 20

Is this a fair assessment of the available Policy Options for the approach to securing appropriate developer contributions from new developments? Please give the reasons for your answer.

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that Policy Option DC2 is most likely to be the preferred option for securing developer contributions? If not, please indicate which Policy Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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6.8 Providing for Green Infrastructure

The Spatial Options Report sets out two main options for dealing with the need for green infrastructure within the Core Strategy:

- Policy Option GI1 - identify Borough wide numerical standards for the provision of various types of green infrastructure within the Core Strategy
- Policy Option GI2 - identify specific priorities for the provision of various types of green infrastructure within each Settlement Area to reflect local needs and characteristics

Consultation Question 21

Is this a fair assessment of the available Policy Options for the protection and provision of green infrastructure across Borough? Please give the reasons for your answer.

Do you agree with the Council's conclusion that Policy Option GI2 is most likely to be the preferred option for the protection and provision of green infrastructure? If not, please indicate which Policy Option you would prefer and explain the reasons for your preference.

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Other Policy Areas

Consultation Question 22

Are there any other policy areas that you think should be considered as part of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document for Wirral?

Please give the reasons for your answer.

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Please remember to submit your comments **to arrive no later than 17.00 hours on Friday 5 March 2010** to Wirral Council, Strategic Development, Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED - Fax 0151 691 8188 - Email pamconway@wirral.gov.uk