



# **Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Framework**

**Core Strategy Examination**

**Topic Paper TP1**

**Procedural and Conformity  
Matters**

**April 2007**



## **Topic Paper 1: Procedural and Conformity Matters**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This Topic Paper is one of eight produced by Bracknell Forest Borough Council to assist the Public Examination into the LDF Core Strategy, which will commence on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

1.2 The evidence that the Council is preparing for Examination will comprise the following:

- **The Council's Soundness Self Assessment Statement**

This is available on the Council's website at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/ldf)

- **The Topic Papers**

These cover procedural and conformity matters, the main Core Strategy themes and the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. These will be available on the Borough Council's website no later than 26 April 2007.

- **Written Statements responding to the Matters and Issues for Examination**

These will provide a detailed response to the separate matters and issues which will be identified by the Inspector as the basis for the debate at the Examination (and responding to specific points raised by representations to the submitted Core Strategy). These Statements will rely as far as possible on cross-referencing to the other documents listed above, and will be available on the Borough Council's website no later than 24 May 2007.

### **2. Background**

2.1 The Core Strategy Development Plan Document is the first Development Plan Document (DPD) in the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Framework to have reached Examination. Under the new planning system, the preparation of DPDs is guided by strict procedures set out in legislation, adherence to which is critical to ensure that the Plan can be considered "sound". The presumption will be that the Core Strategy is sound unless evidence considered at the Examination shows otherwise.

2.2 This Topic Paper therefore provides a single point of reference to supporting documentation that demonstrates the soundness of the Core Strategy in respect of procedural and conformity matters. These are guided by Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and by soundness tests i to v of paragraph 4.24 of Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks (also referred to as tests 1, 2A/B, 3, 4A/B/C and 5 in the Planning Inspectorate's Guide to Assessing the Soundness of Development Plan Documents (December 2005)).

### 3. Key Issues and Soundness

3.1 Several key issues in respect of procedural and conformity matters are raised in the Inspector's Schedule of Matters and Issues for Examination. These are dealt with in turn below, with pointers to the location of evidence that demonstrates that the tests of soundness and legislative requirements have been met. Where page numbers are given to guide the reader to the relevant section of supporting documentation, it should be noted that these are intended as a guide, and do not necessarily preclude other sections of documentation within which the evidence may be intrinsic.

Issue	Evidence
i. Has the Core Strategy been prepared in accordance with the current Local Development Scheme and have the relevant details in the LDS been met?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yes:</b> Detailed in the Bracknell Forest Borough Soundness Self-Assessment Statement, Template 1: Statutory Requirements. See Stage 1: Pre-Production, page 1.</li> </ul>
ii. Has the Core Strategy been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Community Involvement and met the minimum consultation requirements in the 2004 Regulations, including explaining how community involvement has been undertaken and how views have been taken into account?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yes:</b> Detailed in the Bracknell Forest Borough Soundness Self-Assessment Statement, Template 1: Statutory Requirements. See Stage 2: Issues and Options, pages 3 – 4. See also the Statement of Compliance (Regulation 28 Pre Consultation Statement), October 2006.</li> </ul>
iii. Has the Core Strategy been subject to Sustainability Appraisal, which has identified the process carried out, the baseline information used and the outcomes of the process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yes:</b> Detailed in the Bracknell Forest Borough Soundness Self-Assessment Statement, Template 1: Statutory Requirements. See in particular Stage 1: Pre-Production, pages 2 – 3, but also Stage 2: Issues and Options, page 4, Stage 3: Preferred Options, pages 7 – 10, and Stage 4: Submission, pages 13 - 16, for ongoing evidence of independent yet iterative Sustainability Appraisal throughout the preparation of the Core Strategy.</li> </ul>
iv. Is the Core Strategy a <i>spatial plan</i> , which properly reflects national guidance on spatial planning?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yes:</b> Detailed in the Bracknell Forest Borough Soundness Self-Assessment Statement, Template 1: Statutory Requirements. See in particular Stage 1: Pre-Production pages 1 – 2, for references to evidence that the Core Strategy is guided by spatial planning objectives, but also intrinsic in Stage 3: Preferred Options and Stage 4: Submission.</li> </ul>

Issue	Evidence
<p>v. Does the Core Strategy take account of the relationship between policies in the plan and the requirements of other agencies and service providers, including community development, health and education programmes and infrastructure providers' investment programmes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yes:</b> Detailed in the Bracknell Forest Borough Soundness Self-Assessment Statement, Template 1: Statutory Requirements. See Stage 3: Preferred Options, pages 6 – 7.</li> </ul>
<p>vi. Does the Core Strategy relate to other relevant plans and strategies which influence the delivery of its proposals (eg. Local Transport Plan, Parish Plans, etc), and will the policies in the Core Strategy be developed in more detail in subsequent Development Plan Documents?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yes:</b> Detailed in the Bracknell Forest Borough Soundness Self-Assessment Statement, Template 1: Statutory Requirements. See Stage 3: Preferred Options, pages 6 – 7.</li> <li>• The Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Scheme, April 2007 – March 2010, contains details of the forthcoming LDF work programme, and demonstrates the relationship between the Core Strategy and subsequent Local Development Documents.</li> </ul>
<p>vii. Does the Core Strategy integrate effectively with plans prepared by other local planning authorities in the area (eg. adjoining local planning authorities), and are cross-boundary issues properly addressed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yes:</b> Detailed in the Bracknell Forest Borough Soundness Self-Assessment Statement, Template 1: Statutory Requirements. See Stage 2: Issues and Options, pages 3 – 4, and Stage 3: Preferred Options, page 11, for evidence of consultation with other local planning authorities in the area.</li> <li>• In addition, the CS recognises that the Borough does not exist in isolation, and acknowledges that regular cross-boundary discussions take place with other authorities on spatial planning issues. The implementation section under particular policies refers to the need for partnership working with relevant landowners, developers, statutory agencies and the local community.</li> </ul>
<p>viii. Is the Core Strategy consistent with national planning policy and is there sufficient local justification for any policies which are not consistent with national planning policy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yes:</b> Detailed in the Bracknell Forest Borough Soundness Self-Assessment Statement, Template 1: Statutory Requirements. See Stage 3: Preferred Options, pages 5 – 6, and Stage 4: Submission,</li> </ul>

Issue	Evidence
	page 13, which refer to the Review of National, Regional and Local Plans relating to the Core Strategy DPD.
vix. Is the Core Strategy in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy and is there sufficient local justification for any policies which are not consistent with regional planning policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yes:</b> Detailed in the Bracknell Forest Borough Soundness Self-Assessment Statement, Template 1: Statutory Requirements. See Stage 3: Preferred Options, pages 5 – 6, which refers to the Review of National, Regional and Local Plans relating to the Core Strategy DPD. See also Stage 4: Submission, which flags up representations received from the South East England Regional Assembly at submission stage (page 13).</li> </ul>
x. Does the Core Strategy have regard to the local authority's Community Strategy, by setting out policies which deliver key components of that strategy insofar as they are consistent with higher level planning policy and the use and development of land?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yes:</b> Detailed in the Bracknell Forest Borough Soundness Self-Assessment Statement, Template 1: Statutory Requirements. See Stage 3: Preferred Options, page 6, which highlights the relationship between the Community Plan and the Core Strategy.</li> </ul>

#### 4. Conclusion

- 4.1 It is considered that this evidence demonstrates that the tests of soundness and legislative requirements relating to procedural and conformity issues have been met in respect of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document.