



Deposit Draft Surrey Structure Plan 2002 – progress report

**Local Committee for Woking
23 July 2003**

KEY ISSUE:

The County Council Executive has published pre Examination-in-Public proposed changes to the deposit draft Surrey Structure Plan 2002 (the Plan). It also agreed the list of matters to be debated at the Examination-in-Public together with a list of those people who will be invited to participate in the discussions at the Examination-in-Public. These have been published for public comment. The changes include an increase in the housing provision for Woking.

SUMMARY:

It is proposed to increase the overall housing distribution by 100 dwellings (from 2,250 to 2,350). The strategic allocation element of the distribution is unchanged. Technical work undertaken by officers of the Borough and County has found that the majority of the total proposed distribution of 2,350 dwellings has either already received planning permission or there is a reasonable expectation that planning permission will be forthcoming.

The Local Committee's concerns about the importance of integrating consideration of the Structure Plan with other strategies are being brought to the attention of relevant strategic bodies.

Background

1. As Members know, Surrey County Council Executive on 24 June 2003 agreed:
 - its response to the representations made to the Plan,
 - to make pre Examination-in-Public proposed changes to the Plan,
 - the list of matters to be debated at the Examination-in-Public,
 - the people that will be invited to participate in the discussions at the Examination-in-Public.

2. The proposed changes, and the lists of matters and participants have been published for public consultation. They are available on the Surrey County Council website at <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE RTF/Surrey+Structure+Plan> or paper copies can be supplied by the Surrey Contact Centre (08456 009 009). Responses to the pre Examination-in-Public proposed changes must be made by 22 August 2003. Responses to the list of matters for discussion and the people invited to participate must be made by 8 August 2003. The Examination-in-Public is due to commence on 18 November 2003. See Annex 1.

How do the Executive's decisions affect Woking?

3. The majority of the proposed changes clarify or correct the detail of the Plan. The clarifications are intended to strengthen the Plan so that its implementation is unequivocal. In this respect there are no changes of significance relating to the Woking area. There is a particular proposed change with regard to the proposed distribution for housing across all the districts and boroughs. The proposed housing distribution for Woking as compared with the deposit draft Plan is shown in the following table.

Distribution in Deposit Draft Surrey Structure Plan 2002		Proposed distribution in pre EiP proposed changes	
Allocated Housing	Strategic Allocation	Allocated Housing	Strategic Allocation
2,250	1,000	2,350	1,000

4. It can be seen from the table that it is proposed to increase the overall housing distribution by 100 dwellings (from 2,250 to 2,350). The strategic allocation element of the distribution is unchanged. Technical work undertaken by officers of the Borough and County has found that the majority of the total proposed distribution of 2,350 dwellings has either already received planning permission or there is a reasonable expectation that planning permission will be forthcoming.

Integrating the Structure Plan and other strategies

5. Members will remember that they approved a report "Integrating the Structure Plan and other strategies" at their last meeting on 12 June 2003 setting out the relationship between the Structure Plan and other strategies, resolving to draw the issues identified in this report to the attention of relevant decision-makers and planners across all relevant agencies in Woking and the Local Strategic Partnership, and asking the Surrey County Council Executive to note this report in its discussion of future drafts of the Structure Plan, and to draw the issues identified in this report to the attention of relevant decision-makers and planners across all relevant agencies in Surrey and the Surrey-wide Strategic Partnership.
6. The report was on the agenda for the Woking Local Strategic Partnership on July 8.
7. On behalf of the Local Committee, the Chairman put a formal question to the Executive on 24 June 2003, asking them to do as the Local Committee had agreed:

On behalf of the Local Committee for Woking, I ask the Executive to confirm that they have noted the contents of the report "**Integrating the Structure Plan and other strategies**" approved by the Local Committee for Woking on 12 June 2003, and ask them to draw the issues identified in this report to the attention of relevant decision-makers and planners across all relevant agencies in Surrey and the Surrey-wide Strategic Partnership.

The Executive's response was:

"The Woking Local Committee draw attention to the important matter of recognizing the synergies that lie between different parts of the County Council. Whilst the scope of issues covered in the Structure Plan is determined by law and must relate to land use, the Plan has been prepared so that it reflects and complements the strategic aims and aspirations of the County Council and its partners as a whole. The contents of the Woking local Committee's report are indeed noted. The community planning team in the Executive Office will ensure that the issues raised in the report are drawn to the attention of the appropriate county wide coordinating groups".

8. The Local Director is liaising with community planning staff to do this, and has also brought the Committee's concerns to the attention of the Integrating Strategies Member and officer group. They welcomed the Local Committee's initiative, and recognized the importance of ensuring that strategies are not considered in isolation from each other at local and county-wide level.

What happens next?

9. Any objections and representations made to the pre Examination-in-Public proposed changes, the matters for discussion and the list of participants will be put before the independent Panel for the Examination-in-Public.

Future timetable

10. The provisional timetable leading to the adoption of the deposit draft Surrey Structure Plan 2002 follows.

Date	Item
11 July – 22 August	Pre-Examination in Public changes placed on deposit for 6 weeks. Notice of EiP matters and participants published for comment for 4 weeks.
18 Nov	Examination-in-Public starts
19 Dec	Examination-in-Public closes
Feb 2004	Examination-in-Public Panel report published
March 2004	Modifications to the deposit draft Structure Plan published
June 2004	New Surrey Structure Plan adopted

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Surrey Housing Capacity Study June 2003.

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