

The Council's response to the main issues raised on the Submission Draft SCI (September 2005)

Respondent	Representation Number:	Summary of Main Issues raised and changes sought	Proposed response / changes
Mr Graham Wilcock Standish Community Forum	SCI/01/O/01	<p>Considers that the SCI fails the 5th Test of Soundness and objects to section 8 paragraph 8.19 and an omission in relation to appendix D.</p>	
		<p>In relation to Section 8, Mr Wilcock raises the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Letters to neighbours should include a wider catchment area of anyone overlooking a development; and ▪ All applications should be advertised in the free papers, both the Wigan and Leigh Reporters. <p>Mr Wilcock seeks a change to the SCI to ensure that amendments to current and approved schemes will be more widely advertised.</p>	<p>No change. As already stated in paragraph 8.19 'additional publicity will be given when it is considered appropriate to do so'. This is considered sufficient as in the majority of cases It will not be necessary to notify or advertise more widely than already required by the SCI.</p> <p>In circumstances where the Council advertises Planning Applications in the press, the free papers are used. However, it must be noted that some residents of the Borough do not receive the free papers. A change is proposed to paragraph 8.19 to indicate which papers the Council will use and the following wording is proposed: 'for example, a planning application affecting the west of the Borough will normally be advertised in both the Wigan Reporter and the Wigan Observer, and a planning application affecting the east of the Borough will normally be advertised in both the Leigh Reporter and the Leigh Journal.'</p>

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Mr Graham Wilcock Cont.	SCI/01/O/01 Cont.	<p>In relation to Appendix D 'Consultees for the Local Development Framework' Mr Wilcock seeks the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ under the sub heading 'Elected Representatives' the 4th bullet point should read 'local and neighbouring Parish Councils' ▪ Sports & Leisure interests should also be included 	<p>Agree. Propose a change to Appendix D so that the 4th bullet point under the broad heading 'Elected Representatives' reads 'Local and neighbouring Parish Councils'.</p> <p>No change. Sports and Leisure interests are already included in Appendix D under the bullet point 'Sports and Recreation organisations'.</p>
Greater Manchester Geological Unit (GMGU)	SCI/02/O/01	<p>Does not identify a specific Test of Soundness but raises issues in relation to Section 2 and Appendix A on 'What is the Local Development Framework' and Section 8, paragraph 8.4 on 'major planning applications'.</p> <hr/> <p>In relation to Appendix A, GMGU raises the following point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whilst the Joint Waste development Plan for Greater Manchester (GMWDPD) is identified in Section 2 as a component of the LDF, the role of the SCI in relation to the GMWDPD is unclear. <p>GMGU seeks an amendment to appendix A, to show how consultation will be undertaken on the GMWDPD. To state that <i>'Consultation on the GMWDPD will be in line with each of the 10 GM authorities SCI's, and a separate consultation strategy will be produced to give a more detailed account of the methods to be utilised in production of this document'</i>.</p>	<hr/> <p>Noted (see below for the Council's response).</p> <p>No change. The GMWDPD will be carried out in line with Wigan's SCI and as such, the wording in Appendix A is clear and sufficient when read with Table 2. Table 2 illustrates the Council's commitment for involvement on all Wigan's DPDs and SPDs which includes the GMWDPD.</p>

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GMGU Cont.	SCI/02/O/01 Cont.	<p>In relation to Section 8, paragraph 8.4 GMGU raises the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The definition of major development for minerals and waste related development only refers to developments over 1 hectare but that this does not always accurately reflect the nature of development and whether it is major or not. ▪ ‘The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999’ refer to mineral developments over 1ha, but this is not the case for waste. <p>GMGU seeks an amendment to paragraph 8.4. It is suggested that reference to the size of development is removed in relation to minerals and waste related developments so that it refers simply to minerals applications and waste applications.</p>	<p>Noted (see below for the Council's response).</p> <p>Agree. Change proposed to reflect this. Bullet point 3 of Paragraph 8.4. should be amended to read as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ‘mineral working or use of land for mineral working deposits; and ▪ all waste related developments, including waste treatment, storage and transfer as well as tipping’
Highways Agency	SCI/03/O/01	<p>Considers that the SCI fails the 1st Test of Soundness and objects to an omission to the SCI in relation to representations for site allocations (referred to in section 6).</p> <p>The Highways Agency raise the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is not clear in paragraph 6.9 how representations on site allocations are to be treated. ▪ There needs to be clear separation of how the Council will handle representations made on site allocations. <p>The Highways Agency seek an amendment to paragraph 6.9 to reflect the consultation procedure set out in S32 and S33 of the ‘Town & Country</p>	<p>Agree change. Propose the following sentence to be added to paragraph 6.9.</p> <p>‘Representations concerned with proposals for alternative site allocations will themselves be subject to a period of 6 weeks consultation (as soon as possible after they have been received). This will provide an opportunity for representations to be made to the alternative proposals. This process will be carried out in line with the regulations.</p>

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Highways Agency Cont.	SCI/03/O/01 Cont.	Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 for dealing with site allocation representations.	The first sentence of Paragraph 6.10 will also be amended to read 'DPDs are submitted for examination by an independent inspector, along with all representations made at this stage'.
Dr Ann Reid Ashton, Leigh & Wigan Primary Care Trust		Does not identify any specific Test of Soundness but:	
	SCI/04/O/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ raises issues in relation to Section 5, paragraph 5.3, Table 1 'Possible methods of involvement'. The Primary Care Trust would like to see Health Impact Assessments included in table 1. 	No change. Table 1 illustrates the methods of involvement. Whilst a health impact assessment will require community involvement, it is not a method of involvement. Therefore it would not be appropriate to make reference to this in Table 1.
	SCI/04/O/02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ raises issues in relation to Section 6, paragraph 6.3 and Section 8, paragraph 8.11. <p>The Primary Care Trust recommends that paragraph 6.3 be re-worded to state that we will undertake health impact assessments where appropriate during the evidence gathering stage of a DPD/SPD.</p>	Noted (see below for the Council's responses). Propose a change to paragraph 6.3 to include the following wording: 'consideration will be given to sustainability, environmental, and health issues which will be taken through to the following stages where appropriate'.
		The Primary Care Trust recommends that the 4 th bullet point in paragraph 8.11 be re-worded to require developers to carry out health impact assessments where appropriate.	No change. The bullet points in paragraph 8.11 highlight the benefits of carrying out a community involvement exercise for a proposed development. Bullet point 4 recognises that a genuine exercise can create a more sustainable and acceptable development. Whilst health related issues could be considered as part of the community involvement process, it is not appropriate in the SCI, to specifically require a health impact assessment be carried out.

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Peter Sargeant Lowton	SCI/05/O/01	1) Would like the Inspector to consider his previous comments made at the pre-submission consultation stage. The main issues outstanding from pre-submission consultation are as follows:	
		Considers that the SCI fails the 4 th , 5 th , 6 th and 9 th Test of Soundness and objects to Section 4 to 8 and Appendix F.	
		Considers that the council should make clear to members of the public their 'basic legal rights' for example, to make clear that the Regulations and other information such as access to representations are available for inspection at Planning Offices.	The SCI conforms with the minimum legal requirements in a way that is accessible and understandable to the local community. In addition to and to strengthen this process, the Council propose a change to Paragraph 7.2, to add the following wording: 'All formal comments and representations received will be made available for public inspection at the Council offices and all Wigan Borough libraries as soon as possible after they are received. It is also likely that these will be made available on line, on the Councils website when circumstances allow'.
		Raises the point that people should also be made aware that copies of application documents, including plans are available, that they can attend meetings and obtain background papers if so wished. Mr Sargeant raises the point that there is no reference in supporting documents to these and whilst Appendix F mentions costs for LDDs there is no reference to any facility for obtaining copies or the charging regime for information relating to planning applications.	No change. Paragraph 8.19 and Appendix F of the SCI clearly states that copies of application documents including other documents submitted are available for inspection. The supporting documents 'Publicity for Planning Applications' and 'Considerations of Planning Applications at Planning Committee' also clearly identify this. The neighbour notification letters sent out as referred to in paragraph 8.19 of the SCI, clearly details the process for inspecting planning applications and making representations and explains that there will be an opportunity for the applicant and objectors to take part in the proceedings.

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Peter Sargeant Cont.	SCI/05/O/01 Cont.		Change proposed to Appendix F to add the following words to bullet point 7: 'Copies of planning applications and supporting documents can also be obtained from the Planning and Regeneration Dept for a small fee in accordance with current charges. For a list of current charges, please contact Planning Control administration whose contact details are provided overleaf'.
		Remains strongly of the view that DPDs and SPDs should be supplied free to all participants.	No change. DPDs and SPDs are available free of charge to all Statutory Consultees, and all local groups and organisations. They are also available for inspection at the planning offices and all local libraries and can be viewed and downloaded free of charge from the Council's web site. Once an organisation or individual becomes engaged in the process they will automatically be sent a copy of the revised documents free of charge as part of that consultation process. For additional copies a small fee is charged to help cover costs.
	SCI/05/O/02	Considers that the SCI fails the 4 th , 5 th , 6 th and 7 th Test of Soundness and objects to paragraph 4.16 and Section 6.	
		Considers that the Council's database is being operated in a 'patchy' way and that there is no 'discernible pattern' to consultation. As such, Mr Sargeant requests that everybody should be notified on a consistent basis.	No Change. At present all entrants on the community engagement database are being informed/consulted on all of our DPD's and SPD's by letter. However, we appreciate that not everyone requires to be consulted on every DPD and SPD produced. As stated in the SCI on page 8 we will shortly be writing to everybody on our community engagement database to identify key interests, so that we can more effectively target our direct mailing. This will be targeted with the review of the LDS, in the first half of 2006.