

Consultation Statement

Educational Contributions

This statement sets out the preparation and consultation process for the Educational Contributions Supplementary Planning Document in accordance with Regulation 17 (1) (b) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. The purpose of this statement is to detail what consultation has already taken place prior to the SPD being released for its formal period of public participation under regulation 17, what issues were raised by this consultation and how the SPD has been amended in response to these issues.

The Supplementary Planning Document is based on saved policies in the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan (adopted 16th June 2006). The saved policies to which the Educational Contributions SPD relates are shown below. The Replacement Local Plan makes clear that Policies HP5 and HP21 will be used to ensure that when development takes place, if necessary, appropriate contributions are made towards new education provision.

POLICY HP5 – INFRASTRUCTURE

Having regard to the advice as set out in national policy regarding Planning Obligations, the Local Planning Authority will explore all means at their disposal, including planning gain contributions from developers, to ensure the provision and phasing, where appropriate, within housing development sites or within an appropriate distance, of affordable housing, adequate shopping facilities, health care facilities, education facilities, transportation infrastructure (for buses and cycling in particular), nurseries, playgroups and minor infrastructure, including public telephone kiosks, and letter posting boxes.

POLICY HP21 – PLANNING OBLIGATIONS

The Council will seek planning obligations and the provision of related benefits in all types of development. Such obligations and benefits will be properly related to and appropriate to the locations, scale and nature of the development and local social and environmental needs.

As part of the Replacement Local Plan, these policies have been subject to a high level of public consultation including public inquiry. The policies shown above are the result of this process, adopted after all of the issues raised in public consultation had been addressed.

This Supplementary Planning Document, like all that the LPA currently intend to adopt, has also been previously adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance under the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan (adopted 16th June 2006). The draft supplementary planning guidance was released for public consultation in 2003 as part of the consultation on the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan. There were 15 responses to this consultation which were considered and, where appropriate, the documents amended before they were adopted as SPG. The content of the draft Supplementary Planning Documents remains largely similar to the SPGs that were subject to this

consultation. Due to this recent consultation the LPA has carried out a limited level of further consultation prior to the formal regulation 17 public participation.

The Educational Contributions Supplementary Planning Document is based upon a version prepared by the Essex Planning Officers Association (July 2004). This included much discussion and consultation throughout the drafts production, led by Essex County Council Schools Service.

Further consultation on the Supplementary Planning Document has taken place through the Sustainability Appraisal process incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. In the scoping stage of this process the draft Supplementary Planning Document and Scoping Report were made available to statutory consultees for comment.

The statutory consultees were:

English Heritage – Eric Martin
Countryside Agency – Graham King
English Nature – Greg Smith
Environment Agency – Martin Barrell

The consultation period ran from Friday 10th March 2006 to Friday 14th April 2006.

As a result of the sustainability appraisal process, including the scoping consultation with statutory consultees, the final sustainability appraisal report identifies a number of issues and recommendations. The main issues raised and suggested actions to be taken are set out in the Educational Contributions Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Report, available for public consultation along with this statement. In order to ensure a proper balance between economic, social and environmental interests in the district, the LPA has endeavoured wherever possible to amend the draft SPD inline with the recommendations of the sustainability appraisal.