

## **LDF Project Management Board**

### **Workshop 18: 04<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

#### **Proposed Submission South Somerset Local Plan Consultation Progress Report**

**Report By: Andy Foyne (Spatial Policy Manager)**

#### **Introduction**

This report explains what engagement has taken place with the public in consulting on the Proposed Submission South Somerset Local Plan, what representations have been received and how these have been processed and considered to date.

#### **Recommendations**

That PMB note progress being made on the latest round of consultation and consideration of points made

#### **Report**

The Proposed Submission South Somerset Local Plan 2006 – 2028 was placed on deposit on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June and the consultation period closed on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The consultation was preceded by written letter to Plan representees and Town and Parish Councils informing them of the consultation arrangements and how to make response. A formal advert was made in the local press and a press release produced. A static exhibition was produced and set up in the Brympton Way reception for the duration of the consultation period. The actual Plan document with associated evidence base, Consultation Statement, Equalities Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Assessment were made available from the commencement of the Consultation for inspection on the Council's web site with paper copies available at Brympton Way, in South Somerset Council offices and Libraries and copies were available for sale from the Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June. The statutory regulations were complied with.

To date, subject to final inputting of representations and final checking (see para below), there have been 825 people/organisations responding to the Plan consultation and a total of 2230 points raised. A significant number of these are the same point made by the representee, but where they have made the same point in relation to the 4 tests of soundness (positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy) then this is registered as 4 specific points for consideration by the Inspector.

Substantial effort has been put in, prior to and especially since 10<sup>th</sup> August, inputting representations on the Council's consultation software so that all people can see all representations made. This is now substantially finished (with only 3 large representations remaining to be inputted at the time of writing this report).

All representations have been read, summarised and entered into a database for administrative use by the Council and specifically by the Examination Inspector. This presents the representees' unique numbers and representation numbers, acknowledgement dates, relevant policies/proposals, short summary of nature of representation, indication of major change required in consequence or minor change and justifications and nature of the specific change required with a final comments

column. A sample section of the database is set out in appendix for your information. Production of such a summary is a requirement of the Council for the Examination and the parameters chosen reflect the advice of the Planning Inspectorate Advisor.

The Spatial Policy Manager, with his team, has been reviewing matters raised with a view to bringing to Members' attention the prospective major amendments to be considered in response to representations received and minor amendments. The implications of the census population estimate for 2011 and revised population projections are being taken into account along with the Business Register Employment Survey for the period 2010 – 2011. These later two were published at the end of September and so are currently being assessed for implications. It is the intention to bring any prospective major amendments to members via specific reports for consideration at the next PMB meeting on 17th October whilst prospective minor amendments will be forthcoming at the PMB meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October.