

## **EXETER CITY COUNCIL**

### **PLANNING MEMBER WORKING GROUP 5 FEBRUARY 2013**

**EXECUTIVE  
19 MARCH 2013**

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT**

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the outcome of the consultation on a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on sustainable transport, which was carried out in November and December 2012. It recommends adoption of a revised draft as part of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF), and revocation of the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on car clubs which is superseded by the new SPD.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council is in the process of preparing its LDF which, once complete, will supersede the Exeter Local Plan First Review, adopted in 2005. The LDF comprises a suite of documents, divided into:-
- Development Plan Documents (DPDs) such as the Core Strategy, adopted in February 2012, which contains strategic policies, and the Site Allocations and Development Management DPD which is currently published in draft for consultation; and
  - Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which are not subject to independent examination but will have full public consultation, an example being the Residential Design SPD adopted in September 2010.
- 2.2 The Council's Local Development Scheme sets out its proposals in relation to other elements of the LDF. These include an SPD to "clarify and amplify policy relating to the provision of sustainable transport". A draft was approved by Executive on 2 October 2012 as a basis for public consultation, which took place during November and December 2012.

### **3 THE CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 Notice of the consultation was sent to almost 1000 organisations and individuals, most of whom were on the Council's consultation database, plus a selection of other people and groups with whom the Council has dealings in relation to transport issues.
- 3.2 24 responses were received, ranging from comments on a single issue, to a more comprehensive response to the document as a whole. Appendix A comprises a table of comments received, and the Council's proposed response, and Appendix B is a revised draft showing textual amendments proposed as a result of the consultation.
- 3.3 Significantly, none of the comments received challenged the desirability of promoting sustainable transport. When the draft SPD was originally presented to Members, concerns were raised by some of them that the cumulative requirements of our

planning policies risked making development unviable; however, no such concerns were expressed in response to the consultation.

- 3.4 On the contrary, some comments from interest groups indicated that the SPD should have gone further in promoting the particular form of transport in which they were interested, or in discouraging use of the private car. A few representations questioned the ability of our sustainable transport policies to cater for the growth that is planned for Exeter, and in one case challenged the assumption that such growth would or should occur. This was one of a number of examples where a respondent raised an issue outside the scope of the SPD (namely the strategic housing allocations contained in the Core Strategy); another example was the potential for a congestion or workplace parking charge.
- 3.5 Many of the comments were detailed and constructive, which explains the large number of minor amendments proposed to the document. Its thrust, however, remains unchanged, and Members are asked to agree the form of the document for adoption, as a valuable tool in achieving the Core Strategy's objectives, including a step change in the use of sustainable transport.

#### **4 NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 If Executive resolves to adopt the SPD, it will be made available for inspection at Customer First for a period of three months. It will also be placed on the Council's website. Those who commented on the draft will be notified of the adoption.
- 4.2 Chapter 11 supersedes the Car Club SPG adopted in 2005, and revocation of this SPG is therefore recommended to coincide with adoption of the SPD.

#### **5 RECOMMENDED**

- 5.1 That Planning Member Working Group support the revised draft Sustainable Transport SPD.
- 5.2 That Executive approve and adopt the revised draft Sustainable Transport SPD as part of the Local Development Framework.
- 5.3 That Executive revoke the Car Club SPG.

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### **CITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)**

#### **Background papers used in compiling this report:-**

Responses to consultation