

Swindon Borough Local Development Framework

Core Strategy & Development Management Policies

Swindon: Planning for our future

Proposed Submission Summary Leaflet

www.swindon.gov.uk/corestrategy

July 2009



The Spatial Vision for Swindon Borough

In 2026 Swindon will be a regional centre that has raised its image through developing its own identity built on sustainable economic growth and respect for its railway heritage. It will have a thriving regenerated town centre that includes a cutting edge new university, the reinstatement of the canal through central Swindon and linked to the countryside by a strategic network of multifunctional open spaces and water spaces. An integrated and sustainable transport system will enable easy movement around the Borough. Communities will be sustainable, cohesive, and healthy, and residents will enjoy a quality of life that does not use more resources than the environment can provide.

What is the Core Strategy?

The Core Strategy looks ahead 20 years and beyond. It establishes the spatial policies and outlines the key infrastructure and investment decisions required to deliver the Council's vision for the Borough, and its regeneration and development objectives.

What is the Local Development Framework?

The Local Development Framework is a collection of documents that will set out what is needed to guide development and growth in Swindon over the next 20 years. It will replace the current Local Plan with a folder of local planning documents.

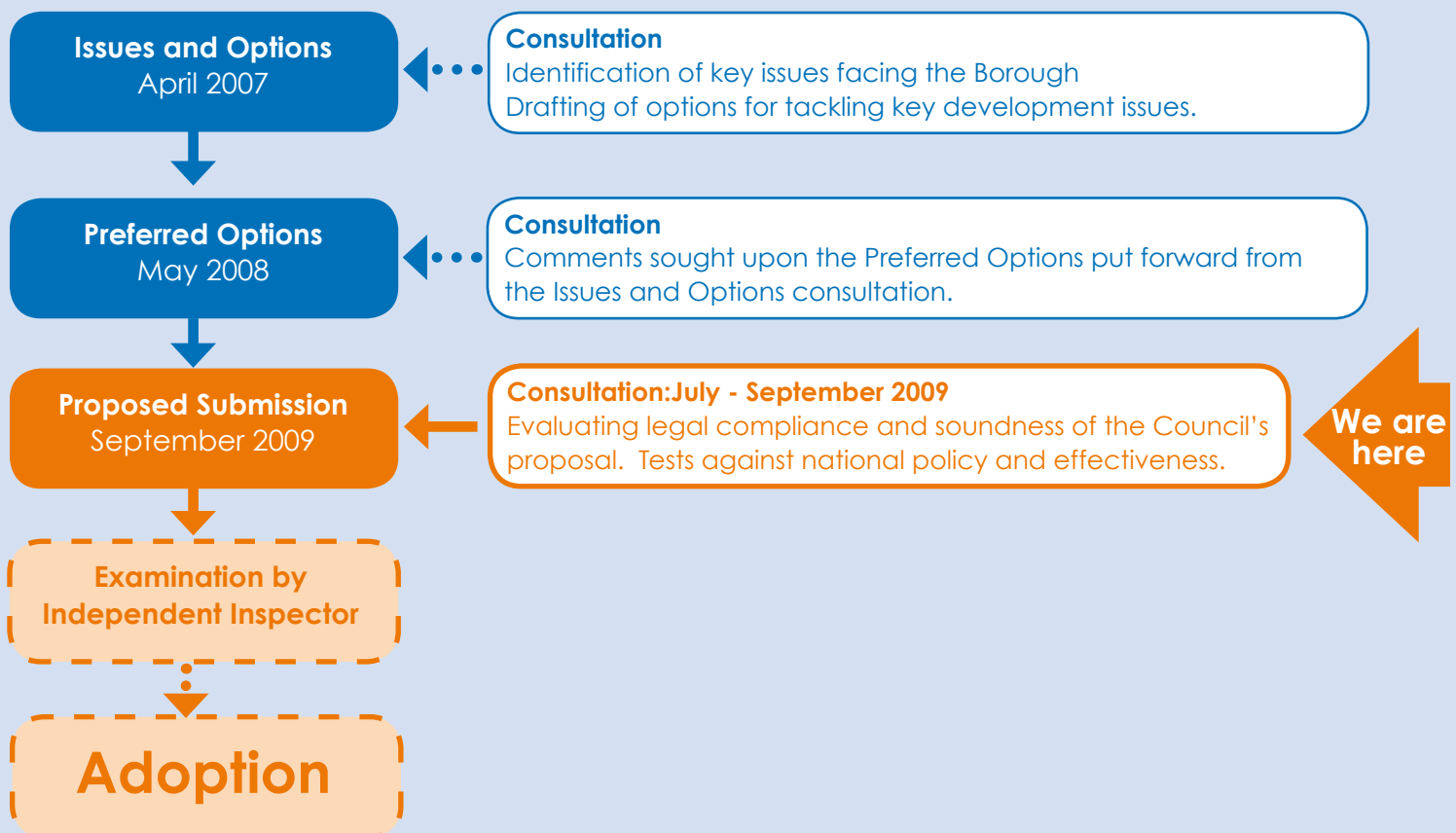
What is a Sustainability Appraisal?

The Sustainability Appraisal looks at the sustainability impacts of policies. It has been carried out as an integral part of Core Strategy development and results show that policies are likely to have significant benefits for sustainable development.

Where are we now?

The Proposed Submission Document takes on board comments raised at consultation previous stages, along with the progress made on the evidence base and other Council strategies. At this stage, the Council is seeking representations on the 'soundness' of the Core Strategy and whether the correct procedures have been taken in its preparation. **Soundness** means "founded on a robust and credible evidence base and the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives". For something to be sound it must also be deliverable, flexible and able to be monitored.

Key Stages in the Preparation of the Core Strategy



Strategic Objectives

Sustainable Development



By 2026 Swindon Borough will have become an exemplar sustainable community having exceeded national and international targets for CO2 emissions reduction, delivered the anticipated growth in a way that enhances the quality of life for existing and future residents including addressing the impact of climate change, and will be known for the exemplary quality of development.

Infrastructure Requirements



By 2026 the infrastructure needs for and arising from the growth of Swindon and from past under-investment will have been provided in a timely and co-ordinated manner, including having been adequately funded

Economy



By 2026 Swindon will have met forecast growth in economic activity and will have enhanced its position as the UK's best business location.

Housing



By 2026 housing needs will have been met in Swindon. A more balanced well-designed mix of housing will have been provided at a range of densities that maximises brownfield redevelopment and access to facilities and services.

Education



By 2026 education provision will be provided to meet the anticipated growth in population. Knowledge and skills will be improved across all levels, particularly through the provision of enhanced tertiary education opportunities.

Shopping



By 2026 Swindon Town Centre will have achieved growth in retail activity commensurate with the anticipated size of Swindon. A range of shopping needs will be provided at district and local centres to serve the needs of existing and future residents.

Transport



By 2026, a comprehensive and sustainable transport network will be in place that is efficient, safe, affordable, accessible and easy to understand. It will support Swindon's long-term growth, linking existing and new communities, with priority given to walking, cycling and public transport and provide a genuine choice of modes.

Culture



By 2026 Swindon's cultural and leisure facilities will have been enhanced to reflect Swindon's regional role. Culture will add to the cohesive communities of the Borough. Growth at Swindon will have occurred in a way that respects and enhances its historic environment.

Community and Health Provision



By 2026 the need for community and health facilities arising from growth and demographic change in the Borough will have been met as and when they occur. Flexible design and service co-ordination will maximise the potential of facilities.

Green Infrastructure



By 2026, building on its green assets, Swindon will sit at the heart of a far-reaching network of connected and multi-functional open spaces, which provide an attractive and inspirational environment to live, work, learn and play.

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People



By 2026 the accommodation needs of the nomadic communities will have been met in a way that enables such communities to be integrated into the settled population.



Spatial Strategy – Where the new development will go?

Swindon Central Area



Swindon Town Centre will be the focus of high-order services and facilities including:

- A Retail Core with 65,000m² of retail floorspace
- A Commercial Quarter 85,000m² of new flagship office space
- A Railway Corridor – mixed-use development scheme.
- A Cultural Quarter and Railway Heritage Area
- A Canal through the heart of Swindon to boost local image to tourists

Existing Urban Communities



- Areas in need of enhanced infrastructure and opportunities are Central Swindon, East Swindon, Toothill, Moredon, Meadowcroft and older post-war estates of Penhill, Parks and Pinehurst.
- Increased number of jobs to be located at existing Business Parks and Industrial Trading Estates through intensified activity and/or redevelopment.
- Increased primary/secondary education provision throughout the borough.

Urban Extensions



- New dwellings planned for Eastern Development Area (EDA), Tadpole Farm, Wichelstowe, and Commonhead. Each will incorporate open green spaces, designated employment land, education and community facilities and sustainable transport links to the existing urban area.

Rural Settlements



- Smaller settlements will be subject to stricter development controls. New development will respect individual characters of primary and secondary rural settlements and enhance local community facilities. Small-scale local economic development and affordable housing schemes for local people will be promoted in addition to rural transport initiatives to increase accessibility for isolated communities.
- South Marston will be expanded as part of the Eastern Development Area, but maintain its independent identity.

Development Management Policies

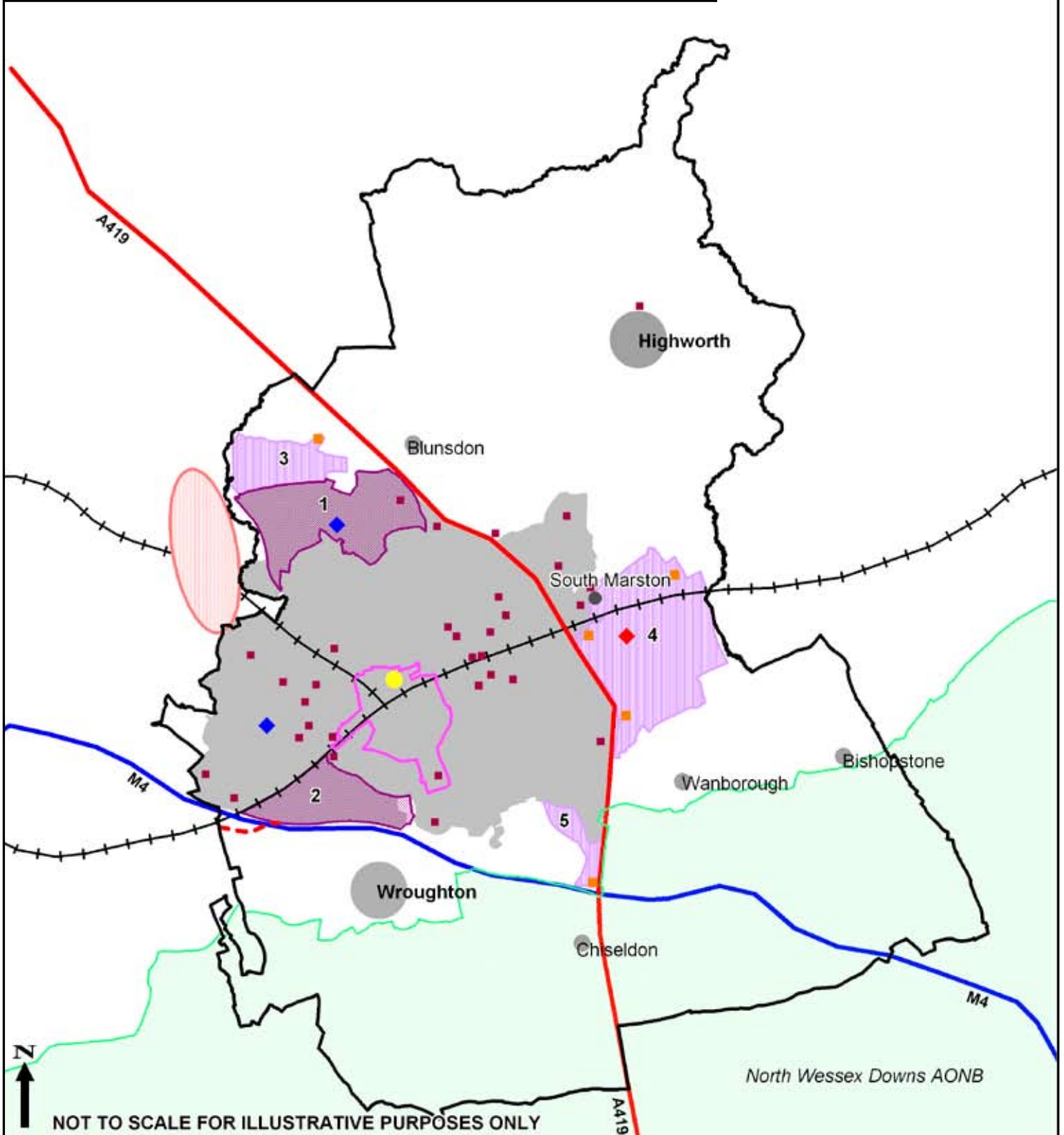
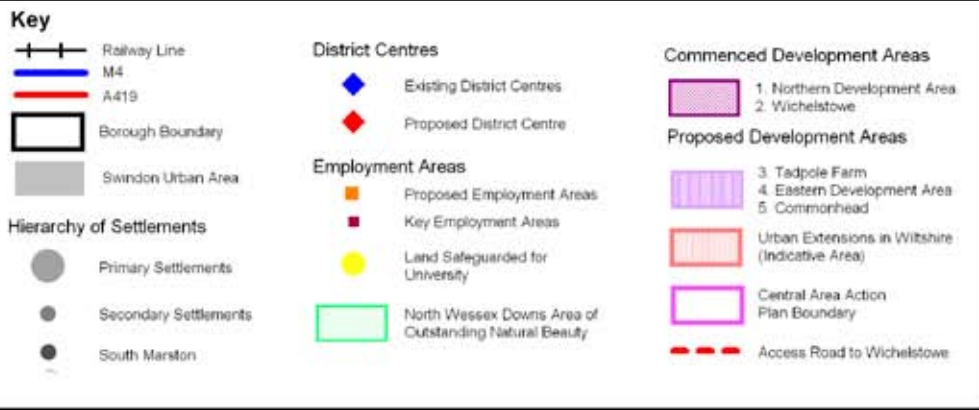
Please see below a suite of Development Management Policies to implement the Core Policies in the Core Strategy

- Design & Sustainability (with Flood Risk Assessment and Renewable & Low Carbon Energy Development)
- The Provision of Essential Infrastructure Community Benefits/ Planning Obligations
- Key Employment Areas
- Affordable Housing
 - Sub-division of Dwellings and Houses in Multiple Occupation
 - Wheelchair Accessible Housing in New Housing Developments
- Transport Requirements of Development
- Historic Environment
- Health and Community Provision
- Green Infrastructure Principles
- Gypsies, Travellers & Travelling Showpeople

This leaflet sets out the key points raised in the Core Strategy. The full document can be viewed at public libraries in the Borough and at Swindon Borough Council Customer Services at Premier House, Station Road or Wat Tyler House. All information, including comments forms, can also be found on the Council's website at www.swindon.gov.uk/corestrategy



Swindon Borough Core Strategy - Key Diagram



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Public Exhibitions

There will be a number of exhibitions that will be held during the consultation period in various locations throughout the Borough. You are welcome to join us at any of these events:

Date	Venue	Time
Thursday 20th August	Central Library	9.30am-7pm
Friday 21st August	Central Library	9.30am-7pm
Monday 24th August	Wroughton Library	2pm-6pm
Thursday 27th August	North Swindon Library	12noon-6pm
Friday 28th August	North Swindon Library	12noon-6pm
Wednesday 2nd September	Covingham Library	2.30pm-6pm
Friday 4th September	Covingham Library	2.30pm-6pm
Tuesday 8th September	Highworth Library	2pm-6pm
Thursday 10th September	Brunel Shopping Centre	9am-5pm
Friday 11th September	Brunel Shopping Centre	9am-5pm

What happens next?

If you have any further queries, please contact us on (01793) 466513, or e-mail forwardplanning@swindon.gov.uk.

The Core Strategy is now available for final comments over a 8 week consultation period until 21st September 2009 before it is submitted for scrutiny by an Independent Planning Inspector. The Inspector will examine whether the Core Strategy meets the tests of soundness and their decisions will be binding upon the Council.

Information about the Swindon Borough Core Strategy is available on the internet at www.swindon.gov.uk/corestrategy

This information is available on the internet at www.swindon.gov.uk. It can be produced in a range of languages and formats (such as large print, Braille or other accessible formats) by contacting the Customer Services Department.

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E-mail: customerservices@swindon.gov.uk
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