

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum. March 2010.

The 'Proposed Submission Core Strategy for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea with a focus on North Kensington' was published during autumn 2009. Consultees were asked to comment on the soundness of the document.

In the interest of clarity and consistency, some minor changes are recommended to Core Strategies policies, namely: CP15 'King's Road/Sloane Square', CA6 'Warwick Road', CA7 'Earl's Court', C1 'Infrastructure Delivery and Planning Obligations', CK1 'Social and Community Uses', CF3 'Diversity of uses within Town Centres', CT1 'Improving alternatives to car use', CL1 'Context and Character', CL2 'New Buildings, Extensions and Modifications to Existing Buildings', CL3 'Historic Environment', CL5 'Amenity', CH1 'Housing Targets', CH2 'Housing Diversity', CH3 'Protection of Residential Uses', CE1 'Climate Change', CE2 'Flooding'.

None of the recommended changes are considered to materially change the content or meaning of the policy and, as a result, they do not give rise to any new unforeseen environmental or sustainability effects. The same conclusion is reached for Policies CF1 'Location of New Shop Uses' and CF5 'Location of Business Uses'. However, in view of the fact that the recommended changes are slightly more complex, a more detailed explanation is given below.

Changes to policy CF1 'Location of New Shop Uses'

Policy CF1 (Location of New Shop Uses) of the Submission Core Strategy has been amended to explicitly recognise that the Council will support the provision of a neighbourhood centre within the Earl's Court wider site. The scale will be that which serves the day-to-day needs of the development and not to have a detrimental impact upon the vitality of any neighbouring centres.

The Submission draft of the Core Strategy took a similar approach, though did not specifically refer to Earls Court. Rather, the original CF1 stated that the Council would support new retail development where the proposal would meet the requirements of the sequential test, would not have an unacceptable impact on existing centres; or would underpin the Council's regeneration objectives and the vitality of the existing centres would not be harmed. These criteria all support the creation of a new neighbourhood centre in the Earl's Court wider area. The amended policy therefore simply adds clarity and does not constitute a change in the policy which would therefore require further Sustainability Appraisal. Furthermore, the Core Strategy is not requiring the provision of a new centre, simply supporting its provision, should the necessary criteria be met.

Changes to policy CF5 'Location of Business Uses'

Part (a) (ii) of the policy has been amended to recognise that offices will not be protected in a town centre where the change of use is to another adjoining town centre use (not residential) rather than just to support the expansion of an existing shop as stated in original plan. This amendment is not considered to change the essence of the policy, maintaining the stated position that town centres are suitable locations for a range of town centre uses.

Conclusion

After assessing the sustainability and environmental effects of the recommended changes to the Core Strategy, the Council are satisfied that the recommended changes are not significant. These changes do not give rise to any new unforeseen environmental effects, or worsening or alteration of the environmental effects.