

WDC/11

**Wycombe District Council's
Delivery and Site Allocations Plan
Examination Statement**



Wycombe District Council's Opening Statement

November 2012

Wycombe Delivery and Site Allocations Plan Examination Hearings

Wycombe District Council Opening Statement

On behalf of the Council I would like to welcome you Sir and participants and members of the public to the examination hearings for the Delivery and Site Allocations Plan.

The Council believes strongly in ensuring that our plans are up to date and that we plan positively and proactively to address the issues in the District. The Council has a strong track record of doing this by

- establishing early on and keeping up to date District-wide local plan coverage
- adopting its Core Strategy as early as 2008
- being amongst the front runners in approving its Community Infrastructure Levy in October this year.

The Delivery and Site Allocations Plan (DSA) is the latest plan, and we are about to move on to prepare a new Local Plan also. These two plans will provide a new up to date planning framework for the District in the “new NPPF world”.

The DSA provides a positive planning framework for the future of our town centres. It will support the long term vitality and viability of those centres and provide for economic growth, whilst providing for flexibility to respond to changing circumstances in these uncertain times.

The proposals for High Wycombe town centre move us towards a vision which has evolved over a number of years. The so called “Town Centre Masterplan” creates a platform for transformed spaces through improving the public realm, bringing the town together by re-structuring the road network, and strengthening the local economy through new site opportunities and an improved town centre environment making it a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

The district wide policies included in the Plan help provide the right policy basis to secure high quality sustainable development. They are tailored to address important local issues, especially where there are currently gaps in the existing policy framework or where it is particularly important that existing policy is updated.

The Council has been working very closely with stakeholders on the Delivery and Site Allocations Plan over a significant period of time and has engaged extensively with the public in the preparation of the plan. The Plan and its policies have evolved in response to that dialogue and as you know that has continued up to these hearings to try to resolve outstanding issues.

The Plan is based on a robust evidence base which has been exposed to scrutiny at each stage of the process. The Plan is also consistent with the

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and it furthers the NPPFs key objectives of securing sustainable development and economic growth whilst seeking to protect all that is important about the character and environment of Wycombe District.

In short we believe that the Plan is a sound plan and it will be good for the District.

Wycombe District Council
18th December 2012