

A Local Plan for
South Staffordshire

Core Strategy Development Plan Document

Adopted 11th December 2012

South Staffordshire Council

The Council will support proposals and activities that protect, retain or enhance existing community facilities and services or lead to the provision of additional facilities that improve the wellbeing and cohesion of local communities and ensure that communities are sustainable.

The Council will support the co-location of facilities (shared use of buildings) where it would enhance the provision of services within local communities and involve the most efficient and sustainable use of land.

Proposals involving the loss of community facilities and services including the sole or last remaining facilities and land in community use such as community/village halls, village shops, convenience stores, post offices, schools, nurseries, places of worship, health services, police services, libraries, public houses, sport and recreation and cultural facilities will not be supported.

In preparing the Site Allocations DPD, the Council may allocate land to provide community facilities where there is evidence of need through engagement with local communities.

Development proposals should be consistent with other local planning policies.

Explanation

- 9.42 Our aim is to ensure that our villages retain a range of essential facilities and services such as social, healthcare, education, open space and recreation and that these are accessible to local people and delivered locally, and that they are maintained and improved and meet the needs of all sectors of the community including the most vulnerable. The potential loss of community facilities can have adverse consequences for local communities and lead to unsustainable travel patterns, and such loss will not be supported.

Key Evidence

Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2020
South Staffordshire Council Plan 2012 - 2016
Review of Protection and Provision of Community Facilities in South Staffordshire 2008
Settlement Study 2009
WMRSS Rural Services Scoping Report 2006

Delivery and Monitoring

Through the Development Management process
Locality Areas Delivery Plans

The monitoring arrangements are set out in the Monitoring Framework in Appendix 1.

Development Policies

9.43 The following Development Policies support Core Policy 10.

Policy EV9: Provision and Retention of Local Community Facilities and Services

The Council will support the provision and enhancement of essential community facilities and services, and their retention, particularly where these are the sole or last remaining facility such as a village shop, post office or public house, where these make an important contribution to the vitality of the place and quality of life/wellbeing of local communities and the maintenance of sustainable communities.

Proposals for redevelopment or change of use of any premises currently used or last used to provide essential facilities or services which support the local community, whether of a commercial nature or not, will only be permitted where the Council is satisfied that:

- a) it has been demonstrated through a viability test that the use concerned is no longer economically viable, that all reasonable efforts have been made to sell or let the property at a realistic price for a period of at least 12 months, the use could not be provided by some other means, or is genuinely redundant; and
- b) the premises or site or an unused part of the building cannot readily be used for, or converted to any other community facility; or
- c) the facility or service which will be lost will be adequately supplied or met by an easily accessible existing or new facility in the local area or the village concerned, unless it has been accepted as redundant under criterion (a) above; and
- d) the facility concerned was not required to be provided and or retained as part of a planning permission for a new development.

Development proposals that enhance the provision of community facilities and services in accordance with Core Policy 10 will be encouraged and supported.

Development proposals should be consistent with other local planning policies.

Explanation

10. Community Safety

Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective 14:

To adopt a design-led approach to all new development to ensure that the distinctive character of the villages of South Staffordshire is maintained and enhanced and that attractive, well designed and safe places are created.

Introduction

- 10.1 The comments received during the preparation of the Core Strategy and expressed through the Sustainable Community Strategy consultations have highlighted that crime, and fear of crime are important issues. Crime and disorder levels in South Staffordshire are relatively low but there is perception amongst some residents that crime levels are high. The reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour, people's fear of crime and improving public confidence are key issues to be addressed. Community safety is more than just crime it is also about how to be safe both in the home and in the community and considering the needs of our ageing population
- 10.2 Feeling safe is important to the wellbeing and quality of life of all communities throughout South Staffordshire. These concerns are recognised as priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy, Community Safety Partnership Plan and in Strategic Objective 14.
- 10.3 In delivering the local planning strategy, the emphasis will be on ensuring high quality design, reducing opportunities for crime through good design and creating a safe and secure living environment for local communities. Community safety infrastructure needs will be identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

Core Policy 13: Community Safety

The Council will work with its partners and support initiatives and activities that promote the safety of people of all ages, particularly the ageing population both in their home and the local community.

The design of all developments must take account of the need to reduce the opportunities for crime and fear of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, and promote safe living environments. Encouragement will be given to initiatives to design out crime in public areas, village centres and elsewhere whilst ensuring that the distinctive character of the villages of South Staffordshire is maintained and enhanced and attractive well-designed and safe places are created.

Development proposals should be consistent with other local planning

policies.

Explanation

- 10.4 The design of buildings and spaces can make a significant contribution towards reducing the scope for crime, and create more pleasant and reassuring environments in which to live, work and play. The opportunities for crime to occur can be minimised by designing and planning out crime in new development. The Council supports the national guidance 'Secured By Design' and will continue to work with Staffordshire Police architectural liaison officer in relation to the design and layout of development proposals.
- 10.5 The Council will also continue to support the work of the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service in the delivery of services and initiatives that ensure that our residents and businesses are safe and secure including support for the provision of new and enhanced infrastructure. Deficits in the provision of community safety infrastructure such as fire stations will be identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Key Evidence

Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2020
South Staffordshire Council Plan 2012 – 2016
Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008 – 2011
Locality Area Profiles
Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) 2010

Delivery and Monitoring

Through the Development Management process
Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plans
Working with the Police, Fire and Rescue and other key partners
LSP Delivery Plans
Infrastructure Delivery Plan

The monitoring arrangements are set out in the Monitoring Framework in Appendix 1.

Development Policies

- 10.6 The following Development Policy supports Core Policy 13.

Policy CS1: Designing Out Crime

In accordance with Core Policy 13, the design of development must include means of reducing the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour,

**South Staffordshire
Local Development Framework**

**Infrastructure
Delivery Plan**

March 2011

South Staffordshire Council

3.3 The Council will be seeking to form partnerships with delivery agencies and developers to co-ordinate development and infrastructure delivery and facilitate more effective resource management. In some cases this will build upon existing long-standing partnership arrangements.

4. **Sustainable Community Strategy**

4.1 The South Staffordshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has prepared the Sustainable Community Strategy which sets out the long term vision for the District. It contains a plan for bringing about a sustainable improvement in the quality of life for all those living and working in the District and contains a clear statement covering the future of South Staffordshire, its people, economy and environment. It brings together the needs, interest and aspirations of communities in South Staffordshire.

4.2 The LSP is a non-statutory body that brings together the different parts of the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, including key players such as the primary care trust (PCT), police and housing associations working at a local level. The LSP ensures the different organisations work together to deliver local services more effectively.

4.3 The Council has been working with its partners in the LSP to establish the principles of 'locality working' in order to further develop partnership working and service delivery across South Staffordshire. A locality model has been developed and five locality areas have been defined based on parish boundaries and electoral divisions. Locality Delivery Plans are being developed with local communities and these will highlight key priority projects that will benefit from partnership commitment.

4.4 The Core Strategy has taken into account the South Staffordshire Sustainable Community Strategy and the Staffordshire Sustainable Community Strategy and the aims and objectives are consistent and compatible. The Core Strategy is expressed under the South Staffordshire Sustainable Community Strategy themes which are:

- Environmental Quality
- Housing
- Economic Vibrancy

Infrastructure Type	Link to Core Strategy Objective	Infrastructure committed	Infrastructure required for the future	Lead Delivery Organisation	Management Organisation	Cost/ Sources of Funding	Timescale	Evidence
Police			A review of policing is in progress and at present no new infrastructure has been identified.					Staffordshire Police are carrying out a review of policing in the County and are looking at ways of retaining frontline officers to meet the needs of local communities. As part of this review it has been identified that some police buildings are no longer ideally suitable to provide the best service to communities and may be closed. The Police are working with the Police Authority to consult local partners to find more suitable locations to work from and those stations currently

Infrastructure Type	Link to Core Strategy Objective	Infrastructure committed	Infrastructure required for the future	Lead Delivery Organisation	Management Organisation	Cost/ Sources of Funding	Timescale	Evidence
								<p>considered for closure include Codsall, Kinver and Wombourne.</p> <p>It has been confirmed that Wombourne station will close but no decision has yet been made on the other station closures. It is possible that the police could share buildings with partner agencies and be co-located in schools, church halls, libraries and shops.</p> <p>The Council will continue to engage with Staffordshire Police on the delivery of services in the District.</p>