

SAMDev Position Statement: October 2012
Approved by the LDF Member Group 23rd October

The SAMDev consultation on Preferred Options stage has now closed and the 4000 or so responses received are now being logged and analysed. The intention is to identify key issues and 'significant changes' to be made in response. This will be undertaken for each of the 18 Place Plan areas. As part of this process we will be clarifying the views of local parish and town councils before Christmas where possible. This will include advice on the potential implications of their current stance on development in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework and requirement for a five year supply of housing provision. It will also allow for development of agreed situations where ongoing Parish Plan reviews or Neighbourhood Plans are underway.

Following the responses received to the SAMDev consultation earlier this year (March-July) Shropshire Councillors have discussed, through LDF Member Group, the options for progressing the SAMDev timetable into next year. This takes account, both of the local elections taking place at both Shropshire Council and Town/Parish Council in May 2013, and the need to maintain adequate pace towards adoption, giving the right signals and confidence to communities and developers alike. In order to reconcile these tensions, it was agreed that:

- a) work in the run up to May would focus on formulating and consulting on new development management policies (with very limited site specific issues) for inclusion in SAMDev, based on comments received to the consultation earlier this year. Public consultation on these draft policies will take place in early 2013 before the elections and associated pre-election period.
- b) work on site related issues will still continue during this period as newly promoted sites are assessed, new evidence is evaluated, and potential alternative preferred sites are considered. Any significant changes arising from this work will entail further public consultation but this will take place following the local elections in 2013.

In 2013 public consultation on SAMDev will therefore be in two parts, the first in February/March will focus on approximately 20 development management policies expanding and clarifying the 'policy directions' consulted on earlier this year. The second will be a further stage of consultation on any suggested changes to preferred sites for housing, employment and minerals extraction when there will also be an opportunity to comment on any revised figures for new housing in market towns and Hubs/Clusters. This second consultation will take place in June/July next year following the local elections.

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 October 2012