

Information Note for Castle Community Meeting

October 2011

Student Housing Supplementary Planning Document

Pledge 50 of the City Mayor's 100 Day Programme was to explore how a student accommodation strategy could be developed for the City, within existing planning laws and responding to community views. This followed increasing concern about the impacts of both new purpose built student accommodation and shared student housing, principally in the Castle and Westcotes wards. As a result, a Student Housing Summit was held on 8th September 2011.

The Summit was attended by a range of stakeholders including Councillors, officers, developers, representatives of both the University of Leicester and De Montfort University, agents, Leicester Landlords Association, local residents, other local authorities and other local interest groups. At the Summit it was confirmed that a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was the most appropriate document in which to clarify the Council's approach to addressing the main issues surrounding the impacts of student housing.

The Supplementary Planning Document will support the current Council planning policy on new student accommodation contained in the Core Strategy.

The SPD is expected to contain information on:

- existing levels, and locations, of both purpose built accommodation and shared housing;
- details of potential future supply of new purpose built accommodation;
- assessing demand for accommodation;
- the types of locations in the City best suited to accommodate new purpose built student blocks;
- how new schemes should be designed to ensure they are suitably integrated with the neighbourhoods where they are located;
- options for future restrictions on the conversion of family homes to houses in multiple occupation (through an Article 4 Direction);
- other issues including crime, anti-social behaviour and parking.

It is expected that a draft Supplementary Planning Document will be ready for public consultation by the end of this year. During this 6 week consultation period, comments will be invited from anyone with an interest in the issue. If you would like to be notified of the consultation, please contact planning.policy@leicester.gov.uk or 0116 252 7233 with your name and contact details (email address preferred).

Formal adoption of the document is then timetabled for March 2012.