

# Structure Plan Review: Cheshire 2016



## *Foreword*

The Structure Plan is very important in setting the framework for development in Cheshire up to 2016. In 2004, the public and a wide range of interest groups were consulted about the first draft of our policies. Issues arising from this consultation were debated at an Examination in Public earlier this year. We are now consulting you again on our proposals to amend policies in response to advice from the independent Panel set up by the Secretary of State. Please send us your views on the proposed modifications by completing the forms available or by email.



**Cllr Andrew Needham**  
*Environment Executive Member*  
*Cheshire County Council*

## *Why review the Structure Plan?*

The current Structure Plan, with policies for the period up to 2011, was adopted in 1999. Since then there have been a number of changes in national and regional planning guidance. There have also been changes, for example, in the types of jobs created and travel patterns. The process of reviewing the Structure Plan takes such changes into account. It will provide policies up to 2016, respond to public comment, and ensure the plan complies with the principles of sustainable development.



*Works*

# Progress of the review

This process is nearing an end. In January 2005 the Draft Deposit Structure Plan Alteration (Cheshire 2016) was the subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) where representatives from a range of organisations took part in a rigorous debate of the proposed policy changes in front of an independent Panel.

While the Panel accepted many of the County Council's proposed policy changes, their report outlines a series of recommendations for some further changes to the policy and supporting text of the plan designed to enhance its consistency with the current regional planning framework, strengthen some policy wording, and improve the clarity of the plan.

The County Council has now produced a report, 'Structure Plan Alteration, Cheshire 2016: Draft Modifications', for consultation. This explains which recommendations of the EiP Panel have been accepted and proposes modifications to the Structure Plan's policies, strategy and objectives.

## The main modifications to the plan emphasise:

- The role of Ellesmere Port as a key town in the Strategy, Policy GEN1 and Policy TCR1
- The policy context for north Cheshire
- The need to prioritise reuse of vacant buildings for housing and provide for identified needs for affordable housing

## Your chance to comment

Comments on the Draft Modifications to the Structure Plan Alteration, Cheshire 2016 are now invited. A copy of this document, as well as the report of the independent Examination in Public Panel, is available on the Cheshire County Council website:

[www.cheshire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk)

Paper copies of either document can be obtained by contacting:

Forward Planning  
Backford Hall  
Backford  
Chester CH1 6PZ

Telephone no: 01244 603175

Email: [structureplan@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:structureplan@cheshire.gov.uk)

- The need to encourage provision for renewable energy, subject to suitable safeguards
- The justification for transport schemes proposed over the plan period and the need to identify the Wrexham to Bidston railway line in the list of rail schemes

Changes to the supporting text of the plan will also be made before its final adoption, late in 2005 or early 2006. These will take into account latest changes to the national policy context as well as the EiP Panel's recommendations, which the County Council accepts in principle.

## *on the proposed modifications*

### *What you can comment on*

- Comments can only be made objecting to (or in support of) a Proposed Modification to the plan's policies, strategy or objectives, or on the decision of the Council not to accept one of the recommendations made by the EiP Panel. Objections cannot be made to the original Draft Deposit Structure Plan Alteration at this stage.
- Comments should be submitted on the forms, available from libraries, County Council offices and on the County Council website.
- By completing a standard form we can ensure that we have all the necessary information to register and process your comments.
- **A separate form must be completed for each Proposed Modification that you wish to comment on. Forms may be photocopied.**
- **Representations must be submitted during the 6 week 'deposit' period between 17th August and midday on 28th September 2005. Representations received after this date cannot be accepted.**

# What stage are we at now?

<i>Time</i>	<i>Stage</i>
March to April 2003	First public consultation on updating the Structure Plan
Spring 2004	Statutory consultation on draft policy alterations
January 2005	Examination in Public of the draft alteration
April 2005	Publication of the Panel Report, which makes 28 recommendations for change to the Structure Plan Alteration's policies and 38 recommendations for changes to the supporting text.
<b>Summer 2005</b>	<b>Structure Plan Alteration, Cheshire 2016: Draft Modifications are produced and go out to consultation between 17th August and midday on the 28th September.</b>
Winter/Spring 2005/06	The County Council will formally approve the updated Structure Plan

**During the consultation period the full document will be available for inspection** in the County Council's main reception at Backford Hall and County Hall in Chester between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, as well as being placed in Borough Council offices and all libraries in Cheshire. A full list of libraries and their opening times can be obtained via the county website [www.cheshire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk) or by telephoning Libraries and Leisure on **0845 1133311**

Relevant documents for the review of the Structure Plan including the Panel Report can all be accessed via the County Council website [www.cheshire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk)

## *For further information*

If you require further information on the review of the Structure Plan then please call:

**01244 603175**

Alternatively email the Structure Plan team on:

**[structureplan@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:structureplan@cheshire.gov.uk)**