

The Co-operative Group
Response

Draft Planning Policy
Statement: Eco-towns

Document 5

**The Co-operative Group Response to Oadby and
Wigston Full Council Report, 26th February 2009**

April 2009

an **ECO-TOWN**
for **LEICESTERSHIRE**

The Co-operative Group Response to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Report to Full Council on 26th February 2009: Draft Planning Policy Statement and Sustainability Appraisals – Eco-towns (the Report)

The Co-operative Group (the promoter) would like to make the following comments in respect of the Report considered by Oadby and Wigston Council on 26 February 2009 on the Council's response to the draft Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement (EPPS).

The promoter acknowledges that Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (the Council) has taken a measured approach in its response to the draft Planning Policy Statement on Eco-towns by concluding that under the current circumstances further work is required before they are able to take a final view on the eco-town proposal. The promoter recognises that this is a reasonable approach to take given that the Council has a potential role as a local planning authority (part of the site being located within the borough), their role in the ongoing Regional Plan (RSS) and Local Development Framework (LDF) reviews and the fact that the eco-town proposal is at an early stage, requiring further work to be undertaken before it is promoted through the planning system.

In reaching its conclusion, the Report refers to the Pennbury Strategic Assessment (Halcrow Report) and to 'technical reports commissioned by the Council'. The promoter has issued a response to the Halcrow Report and a more detailed response is submitted as part of its response to the draft Eco-towns PPS. The promoter considers that the Halcrow Report should have been given very little weight by the Council on considering its response to Government in respect of the draft Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement (draft EPPS), and the Eco-town for Leicestershire proposals in particular. Its concerns with the Halcrow report relate to factual inaccuracies, incompleteness, failure to understand the eco-town assessment process and the status of the Eco-town for Leicestershire Masterplan Vision Document, contradictory conclusions and unsubstantiated claims.

In respect of the 'other technical reports', it is not clear what these reports relate to and therefore the promoter has not been able to comment on their merits.

The promoter is confident that the Council's concerns can be addressed through the RSS, LDF and planning application stages.