

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council
AUTHOR: Director of Development Services

9 December 2005.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:

SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY OF STATE

Purpose

1. For Members to consider issues raised at the LDF Council meetings of 15, 18, 22 and 25 November which Council asked to be brought back to this meeting for further consideration and agreement. The finalised LDF documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State in January 2006.

Effect on Corporate Objectives

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| 2. | High quality, accessible, value for money services | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist the Council's objectives to deliver quality accessible development in the district• Include the provision of affordable housing and the effective delivery of sustainable development at Northstowe and other major developments on the edge of Cambridge and development of sustainable communities• Assist the delivery of the Community Strategy• Be used by Cambridgeshire Horizons to help the early and sustained development of the necessary services and infrastructure. |
| | Quality village life | |
| | A sustainable future | |
| | A better future through Partnerships | |

Background

3. Special meetings of full Council have previously considered representations received, responses to those representations, and resulting changes to the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) at the following meetings:
 - Core Strategy, Development Control Policies, Site Specific Policies DPDs - 15th November
 - Northstowe Area Action Plan (AAP) - 18th November
 - Cambridge East AAP - 22nd November
 - Cambridge Southern Fringe AAP - 25th November
4. Council asked that certain issues be given further consideration and recommendations be brought back to this meeting.

Key Issues for Consideration

5. The issues referred back to officers for further consideration are listed in the following agenda items together with the recommended response:

- Item 4 Core Strategy: issues to be brought back to Council
- Item 5 Development Control Policies: issues to be brought back to Council
- Item 6 Site Specific Policies: issues to be brought back to Council
- Item 7 Northstowe: issues to be brought back to Council
- Item 8 Cambridge East: issues to be brought back to Council
- Item 9 Cambridge Southern Fringe: issues to be brought back to Council
- Item 10 Changes Maps

6. The changes must be considered in the context of those agreed at previous meetings, therefore the reports and minutes of the previous meetings of Special Council should be considered when assessing the recommendations. In particular, the schedules in the later agenda items include the relevant agenda page reference for each issue to assist Members in their consideration. Members may find it helpful to bring those earlier agenda papers identified at the top of each schedule to the meeting.

Next Steps

7. Members are being asked to agree the outstanding parts of the LDF at this meeting for submission to the Secretary of State. The revised Core Strategy DPD, Development Control Policies DPD, Site Specific Policies DPD, Northstowe AAP, Cambridge East AAP, Cambridge Southern Fringe AAP and Proposals Map will be submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in January 2006.
8. Further minor technical updating will also be required to the LDF and consistency across the plans will need to be checked to ensure that any consequential changes are made as a result of changes agreed by Members in other DPDs. Members are asked to delegate this process to the Portfolio Holder if it involves any matters of policy and to the Development Services Director for purely technical changes.
9. Submission to the Secretary of State will trigger the start of a further statutory six week period during which representations can be made on the LDF. Once this consultation period has finished public views will also be sought and considered on any "objection" sites. This includes both new and alternative development sites put forward by objectors and will give an opportunity for third parties to make formal representations before objection sites are considered by the Inspector. This is a new stage under the new plan making system. A public examination is then scheduled for July to October 2006 (with a recess in August) to be chaired by an independent Inspector who will test the "soundness" of the LDF documents. Finally the Inspector will produce a binding report which is programmed for March 2007 and the Council will then adopt the LDF documents.

Options

10. There are no specific options to put before Members at this stage.

Community Safety Implications

11. None

Environmental / Sustainability Implications

12. Key components of the LDF will consider matters such as landscape and biodiversity, land drainage and water conservation, energy efficiency and managing waste.

Equal Opportunities Implications

13. None

Financial Implications

14. The additional round of public consultation occasioned by the September 2004 changes in the Regulations for plan-making has had to be funded from the unspent monies for the Public Examination into the 'soundness' of the plans which has now been postponed to the next financial year. Additional budgetary provision will have to be added to the monies which will be rolled over into 2006/07.

Legal Implications

15. None.

Risk Management Implications

16. The effect of any slippage to the timetable could be significant to meeting the Structure Plan development strategy for the Cambridge area.

Staffing Implications

17. Within existing resources.

Recommendations

18. Members are invited to:
- (a) **AGREE** the further changes proposed to the Pre-Submission draft LDF documents as contained in Agenda Items 4-10;
 - (b) **AGREE** that the proposed changes be incorporated into the draft LDF documents and that the LDF **BE SUBMITTED** to the Secretary of State in January 2006; and
 - (c) **DELEGATE** further minor editing changes to the DPDs to the Planning Portfolio Holder where they involve matters of policy and to the Development Services Director where they are technical matters.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Reports to Council meetings of 15, 18, 22 and 25 November 2005
Pre-submission Core Strategy Development Control Policies Site Specific Policies, June 2005
Pre-submission Northstowe Area Action Plan, June 2005
Pre-submission Cambridge East Area Action Plan, June 2005
Pre-submission Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, June 2005
Representations received in response to the above documents.
Revised Sustainability Appraisals

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