

**Committee:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 25 October 2012  
**Title:** Local Plan Update  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Barker

**Agenda Item**

**14**

Key decision: **No**

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### Summary

1. This report updates Cabinet on the situation with the Draft Local Plan, current work, outstanding studies and future programme.

### Recommendations

2. To note the report

### Financial Implications

3. There are no financial implications.

### Background Papers

None

### Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	The draft Local Plan has been subject to extensive public consultation with further consultation phases planned.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	None

### Situation

5. Consultation on the draft plan took place between 8 June and 23 July 2012. The report was presented to the LDF Working Group on 2 August 2012 which set out the results from the Exhibitions and the Area Forums.
6. A total of 14,362 comments from 4,165 people had been registered on the on-line database and available for people to view.
7. Officers are now preparing reports detailing the comments which have been received on the policies and proposals in the draft plan. The first of these was presented to the LDF Working Group for consideration and discussion on 14 September 2012.
8. This first report focused on a number of specific relating to:
  - Design (Policies DES1 and DES2)
  - Protection of the Countryside (C1 – C4)
  - Historic and Natural Environment (HE1-HE5)
  - Parking (TA1 and TA2)
  - Community Facilities (INF1- INF3)
9. It is the intention to bring reports on the remaining policies to the next three LDF Working Groups as set out in the following table:

5 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment Strategy (Policies SP2 and SP3),</li> <li>• DM Policies EMP1 and EMP2 and Question 3</li> <li>• Retail Strategy (Policy SP4)</li> <li>• DM Policies RET1, RET2 RET3 and Question 2</li> <li>• Employment Site Allocations</li> </ul>
19 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Environmental Policies SP8-SP14</li> <li>• Environment and Natural Resources Policies EN1 - EN8</li> <li>• Strategic Access Policies SP15 and SP16</li> <li>• Strategic Infrastructure Policies SP17 and SP18</li> </ul>
2 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Strategy (Policies SP5 , SP6 and SP7)</li> <li>• DM Policies Housing Policies HO1 -</li> </ul>

	<p>HO10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies SP1 and Question 1</li> <li>• Site Allocations</li> </ul>
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10. The Council is awaiting the results of a number of commissioned studies. The Phase 2 Water Cycle Study is expected shortly. The Council has had sight of an initial draft which has been sent to the water companies for comment and checking of factual information.
11. Essex Highways have been commissioned to carry out a detailed Highway Assessment and Air Quality Assessment on the Local Plan. Work on this study is on-going with results expected during the next few months and a final report towards the end of the year.
12. The council is also required to have a Viability Study carried out on the Local Plan to ensure that the draft policies are achievable and do not make potential schemes unviable. The contract to carry out this work has been let and meetings planned. However, information from the Highways Assessment is required as part of the viability work.
13. Cabinet approved a new Local Development Scheme at its meeting on 13 September 2012. The next public consultation on the Local Plan is set for January 2012.

## Risk Analysis

14.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That Councillors have insufficient information to make an informed decision.	1. Low likelihood of un-informed decisions being made due to information and advice made available	3. High impact on Local Plan process if unsound decisions are made.	All comments received have been processed and summarised and are included within the report. Officers have considered all the comments and have made professional recommendations.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.