

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 18 June 2015

**14**

**Title:** Great Chesterford Parish Plan

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Barker

Key decision: **No**

## Summary

1. Great Chesterford Parish Council has approved a Village Plan and has sent it to the District Council. This report considers its findings and action plan.

## Recommendations

2. That the working group recommend that Cabinet adopt the Parish Plan as Council Approved Guidance in determining planning applications in the Parish and as background evidence in the preparation of the Local Plan.

## Financial Implications

3. None

## Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Great Chesterford Village Plan 2015

## Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The plan has undergone significant community involvement in its preparation
Community Safety	The plan deals with community safety
Equalities	The plan consulted with every resident
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	The plan deals with sustainability of village
Ward-specific impacts	Littlebury, Chesterford and Wendens Lofts

Workforce/Workplace	None
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## Situation

6. The purpose of the Great Chesterford Village Plan is to determine the future of the village, and how it can change for the better. It reflects a collective view of what is important to people living in the village. It sets out a vision for the future of the parish and outlines how that can be achieved.
7. The views of the residents were obtained through a questionnaire distributed in autumn 2013. In total 493 people completed the questionnaire, a return rate of 43.8% of the village's population over the age of 17. Youths and businesses were asked to complete separate questionnaires.
8. Key points arising from the Village Plan are:-

- a. Housing and Development: Over half of respondents (53.3%) felt that there should be no further construction in Great Chesterford beyond the 100 dwellings already allocated by the District Council in the current draft Local Plan. However a large minority (42%) would accept up to 100 additional dwellings. There was strong support for any future provision to be affordable and for local people. Views were mixed on the size of homes that should be made available, but the majority favoured small (1-2 bedroom) or family (3-4 bedroom) homes. There was significant interest in bungalows, retirement accommodation and warden-assisted accommodation.

Action: Establish a group to take forward proposals to create a Neighbourhood Plan.

- b. Business: A total of 18 business responded to the business survey. The majority were well established. A quarter of the businesses were run from home. Issues reported by businesses were lack of parking, lack of local housing for employees; and poor broadband provision. The majority of local businesses said they were unaware of any local businesses services provided by the District Council.

Action: Explore further with businesses what their parking needs are and to what degree this is limiting their work; create a business directory on the village website; parish council to consider what can be done to improve broadband provision.

- c. Roads and Transport: The railway is frequently or occasionally used by 68% of respondents. The bus service between Saffron Walden and Cambridge which stops in the centre of the village is not at all well used with 76.9% of respondents saying they never or hardly ever use it. Concerns were raised about the speed of traffic on the B184 and on internal roads, however some respondents didn't want to see the village cluttered with signage, markings and equipment. There was support for cycleways on the main roads and for a reasonable pavement to be

made along Jacksons Lane up to the junction with Walden Road and similarly along High Street.

Action: Conduct further research into what can be done to encourage greater use of the bus service; explore with Essex Highways what might be done to calm traffic on the main roads within the village envelope; investigate cycleway improvements.

9. The Village Plan concludes with a statement from the Parish Council setting out how many of the actions are already being considered.

## Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the Parish Plan is not taken into account as a material consideration	1. Little - Officers will be aware of the plan and will include reference to it in any relevant reports	2. Some - The views of the community are not taken into account, devaluing community-led planning	The Parish Plan is included in a check list of items to consider in preparation of Local Plan and when determining applications within Great Chesterford Parish.

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.