

Lead Officer's Report

Environment, item 4

Committee: Environment

Agenda Item

Date: 23rd January 2007

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Title: Lead Officer's Report

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Item for
information

Summary

This is a general report by the Lead Officer on information items and developments since the last meeting that are not on this agenda

Recommendations

That the report be noted

Background Papers

Minutes of previous meeting

Documents referred to in text

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Communication on the restructuring is being carried out
Community Safety	None
Equalities	Diversity is a key element of the East of England plan and is reflected in the consultation strategy of the Government documents referred to here.
Finance	No direct implications in this report
Human Rights	No direct implications in this report
Legal implications	No direct implications in this report
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	The restructuring affects all staff

Situation

1 Matters from minutes not otherwise on this agenda

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- 2 E13 (i) Economic Development – the new Economic Development Manager, Helen Rodgers starts on 25th January 2007
- 3 E31 – Bus Survey – a letter has been sent to ECC and a response is awaited
- 4 Urban Place Supplement – this is going through the adoption procedure and our comments have been passed to ECC
- 5 Local Development Scheme – approved by full Council.

Restructuring

1. The new Directors were confirmed in post as of 1st January 2007. Housing Strategy and Programme will form part of the Development Directorate with the rest of Housing Services, including housing estate management and other Council owned buildings, within the Operations Directorate. At some future date Members will need to consider which Committee should be responsible for housing policy. Government policy is increasingly moving towards integrated planning and housing delivery.
2. The Committee will continue to be served primarily by the Directors of Operations and Development.

Developments in Government Environmental Policy and Consultations

1. There has been a plethora of Government output in the run up to Christmas. These include:
2. The Kate Barker review of planning (not for consultation)
3. The Secretary of State's response to the Panel's report on the East of England Plan (consultation)
4. The review of the Air Transport White Paper (not for consultation)
5. Planning Policy Statement 3 on Housing (not for consultation)
6. Climate Change (some policy and some for consultation)
7. Planning Policy Statement 25 Development and Flooding (not for consultation)

Ad aide memoire has been circulated to all Members. There will be a workshop on the East of England Plan on 5th February prior to its consideration by Full Council. This issue was also discussed at the LDF Member Task Group on 15th January. This is the most significant policy document to affect this District as it has policies that are specific to Uttlesford and subregional areas that include Uttlesford, and it also includes policy on Stansted Airport. This approach has been taken, in agreement with the Chairman, because there has been insufficient time for Officers to formulate a report to this Committee, and the next Committee is after the close for consultation replies. Other consultation responses which

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also expire before the next Committee deadline will be with the Chair and Vice-Chair's agreement. The Stansted Airport Advisory Panel and the Airport Policy Member Task Group will also have an input in to some consultations.

Issues in the pipeline

1. Consultation is under way on issues and options for the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework and will be reported to this Committee after the May elections. The Area Panels have received reports.
2. There will be a Planning White Paper in Spring which will be reported to this Committee

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Government deadlines for responses are outside the Committee timetable	High	Adverse consequences for the future of the District if opportunities to comment are missed	The Committee agrees to delegate key decisions to the Chair and vice-Chair or agrees to hold special meetings if decisions are vital