

Lead Officer's Report

Environment, item 4

Committee: Environment

Agenda Item

Date: 13th March 2007

4

Title: Lead Officer's Report

Author: John Mitchell, Director of Development,
01799 510450 jmitchell@uttlesford.gov.uk

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	Internal communication on the restructuring is being carried out. External communication on the LDF Core Strategy is under way and the outcome will significantly inform the overall policy direction of the Plan.
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	The work being done by EERA on accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers has human rights implications
Legal implications	No direct implications in this report
Ward-specific impacts	All

Lead Officer's Report

Environment, item 4

Workforce/Workplace	The restructuring affects all staff
---------------------	-------------------------------------

Situation

- 1 Matters from minutes not otherwise on this agenda
- 2 E41 – Car Park machines and payment methods – the machines are being purchased.
- 3 E43 and E44 – budget matters were considered by Full Council on 15th Feb, the Operations Committee scheduled for 8th Feb having been cancelled because of the poor weather
- 4 E47 – Gold Enterprise Zone – no change
- 5 E49 – Waste Collection from Community Premises was determined in accordance with the recommendation at a recommencement of the meeting of 23rd January prior to the Council meeting of 15th February.

Restructuring

1. The interview process for Heads of Division is under in progress. Successful candidates will be confirmed in post by 31st March.

Developments in Government Environmental Policy and Consultations

- 1 The Council's comments on the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the draft East of England Plan (RSS) were agreed as recommended at Full Council on 15th February, subject to an additional objection seeking absolute rather than aspirational targets for affordable housing.
- 2 The Government is consulting on planning guidance in relation to Travelling Showpeople.
- 3 EERA are undertaking a Single Issue Review of the East of England Plan on the subject of Gypsy and Traveller Pitch provision. The outcome will be the subject of a future report to this Committee, and it will be necessary to incorporate this into the LDF process.

Stansted Airport

BAA issued details of their preferred option for a second runway on 30th January. A 14 week public consultation on the surface access strategy for a two runway airport was launched on 27th February 2007.

Issues in the pipeline

Lead Officer's Report

Environment, item 4

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. It is likely, amongst other things, to introduce a streamlining of the new development planning procedure only 2 years after its introduction.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
We miss the deadline for consultation on the BAA's Surface Access Strategy	Low	High	We meet the deadline of 5 th June 2007