

Local Development Scheme – 3rd Revision

Environment Committee, item 7

Committee: Environment

Agenda Item

Date: 20th January 2009

7

Title: Uttlesford Local Development Framework
Local Development Scheme – 3rd
Revision

Author: Melanie Jones, Principal Planning Officer,
Ext 461

Item for
decision

Summary

1. The Local Development scheme (LDS) is the project plan for the production of the Uttlesford Local Development Framework. The first LDS came into effect in April 2005. This was revised in July and December 2006 to include extra consultation stages, new documents and general updating. In June 2008 the Government published a new Planning Policy Statement 12 and regulations which introduced changes to the process for producing LDF documents. Further changes have been introduced in the 2008 Planning Act which received Royal Assent in November 2008. This 3rd revision to the LDS reflects these changes to the process, and also responds to comments made by the Government Office and others in relation to the Core Strategy preferred options consultation.

Recommendation

2. That the committee approve the revised LDS for submission to the Secretary of State.

Background Papers

None

Impact

Communication/Consultation	When the revised LDS comes into effect it will be put on the website and made available for inspection at the offices in Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow.
Community Safety	
Equalities	
Finance	
Human Rights	
Legal implications	

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Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	

Situation

1. The revised LDS is attached. The main changes from the 2006 LDS have been made for the following reasons:
2. New legislation has brought a number of changes to the LDF process which has implications for the LDS. The stages of consultation for the development plan documents i.e the Core Strategy, Site Allocations and Development Control policies are now less prescribed. The Issues and Options and Preferred Options stages in the old regulations are now replaced by a single public participation stage. This still needs to be done in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and should be proportionate to the scale of issues involved in the plan. The guidance advises that local authorities should undertake timely, effective and conclusive discussion with key stakeholders on what options for a core strategy are deliverable.
3. Consultation on the submission document is now carried out before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. Representations received during this consultation have to be sorted and summarised and a summary of the main issues raised sent to the Secretary of State with the final document which is then subject to examination before it can be adopted. Appropriate changes have been made to the milestones in the LDS for the preparation of the Core Strategy, Site Allocations and Development Control documents to reflect these new arrangements.
4. The two SPDs which were programmed in the last LDS (The Urban Place Supplement and the Energy Efficiency SPD) have now been adopted by the Council so these have been deleted. SPDs are no longer required to be listed in the LDS, which gives the Local Authority more flexibility to prepare SPDs without having to amend the LDS each time. SPDs are no longer required to be subject to sustainability appraisal (SA) in their own right, although there is an assumption that the policy which the SPD is supporting will have been through an SA process.
5. As members have previously been advised additional technical work and additional consultation is required before the Core Strategy can be submitted for examination. Go-East have strongly advised that additional consultation needs to be carried out testing the implications for the District Strategy arising from options for Stansted Airport. Some of the technical work required for this consultation is being done as part of the Council’s case for the G2 enquiry but the timetables at the moment are not compatible so the Core Strategy timetable has been extended to allow for this work to be made available before additional consultation is carried out. In the revised LDS this consultation is scheduled for September/October 2009. This timing will also mean that other technical work currently underway will be completed and available in time for people to consider as part of the consultation. In addition to the options arising from Stansted Airport

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the other key element of the autumn 2009 consultation will be the housing allocations, particularly the scale of growth in the market towns and the villages. This will be informed partly by the work on the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment which is currently ongoing.

6. Following approval by committee the LDS will be sent to the Secretary of State who then has 28 days to consider it. It will also be sent to the Planning Inspectorate for information. If no direction is received from the Secretary of State, then the revised Local Development Scheme can come into effect after that time following resolution by Council.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The Sec of State issues a direction	Low	The revised LDS will not come into effect.	Sec of State consulted in advance of the proposed changes.