

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP held at
COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 3.00 pm
on 23 JULY 2010**

Present: - Councillor A J Ketteridge - Chairman.
Councillors C A Cant, J F Cheetham, E J Godwin, J I
Loughlin and H S Rolfe.

Also present: Councillor S Barker (observing).

Officers in attendance: - R Harborough (Director of Development),
S Nicholas (Senior Planning Officer), C Roberts
(Democratic Services Officer), and A Storah (Agency
Planner).

LDF1 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LDF2 **RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION ON THE PREFERRED OPTIONS
FOR THE CORE STRATEGY OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
FRAMEWORK AND PROPOSALS FOR REPORTING BACK TO THE
GOVERNMENT**

The Senior Planning Officer described the work done to collate all representations received, and gave examples of the views expressed.

Councillor Rolfe suggested that the Council should be provided with an empirical analysis of the consultation.

Members acknowledged that some of the representations would be recorded on a spreadsheet rather than entered into the Limehouse web based database, and referred to the mixed messages received from the Government about the scale of expenditure on consultation.

The Director of Development said that some quantitative information would be needed in the final report and that he would prepare a note for members about the report by mid August before the final report was released for Council.

LDF3 **IMPLICATIONS OF ABOLITION OF THE REGIONAL SPATIAL
STRATEGY FOR PROGRESS OF THE CORE STRATEGY OF THE
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

The Group received copies of:- a letter to the Leader from the Minister of Housing and Local Government referring to the Localism Bill, the commitment to abolish Regional Strategies and the possibility of growth funding for housing; Guidance from the Ministry Chief Planner; and a briefing paper from the Council's LDF Management Group.

Members noted the advice from the Chief Planner at the Department of Communities and Local Government. They discussed the factors to be taken into account in assessing the scale of provision for housing and jobs.

Councillor Ketteridge expressed the view that development should not be developer driven and other members emphasised the importance of providing and retaining affordable rented accommodation and of maintaining an effective dialogue with the parishes on this matter.

Councillor Ketteridge considered that the scale of growth should take into account the capacity of settlements to accommodate development, including the potential to disperse homes to villages. A single site strategy was clearly not popular. Councillor Barker suggested that it would be helpful to express the scale of growth in terms of a percentage increase per annum, for example, to the housing stock. Other members stressed the need to justify the scale of development to Uttlesford residents. Decisions on the scale of growth should be taken before location of growth was discussed

The Director of Development suggested that the Council would wish to review the housing targets to which it had been working and it followed that a work programme would be needed. The review needed to involve Parish Councils and seek their perception of the scale of growth in their communities that would secure support.

Councillor Cheetham suggested that the Parish Plans would be very useful in this context. Councillor Ketteridge hoped that as much work as possible could be carried out in house.

Councillor Loughlin asked for weight to be given to considerations of infrastructure and transport. Officers suggested that it would be useful for members to consider the various factors and to rank them. Officers would draft a list.

It was decided that a further meeting of the Group would be held on Tuesday 24 August at 9.30 am. A paper would be submitted in preparation for the meeting of the Environment Committee on 7 September asking the Committee to decide whether to review the scale of growth for the district, and setting out how this could take place in the context of the Government's policy on localism.

Councillor Rolfe asked that the Group be presented with a report on how many houses had been completed and outstanding commitments currently in the development process.

The meeting ended at 4.40 pm.