

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK MANAGEMENT GROUP held at  
COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 10.00 am on  
4 DECEMBER 2006**

Present:- Councillors C A Cant, E J Godwin, S C Jones and A R Thawley.

Officers in attendance:- R Harborough, H Hayden, M Jones, S Nicholas  
and M T Purkiss.

**LDF23 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING**

RESOLVED that Councillor E J Godwin be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

**LDF24 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A J Ketteridge and J I Loughlin.

**LDF25 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**LDF26 BUSINESS ARISING**

It was noted that the Landscape Character Study had been finalised and was available on the website. The summary of the results of the consultation had been printed in Uttlesford Life and a copy of the full report was available on the Council's website.

It was noted that the Environment Committee had approved the second revision of the LDS for submission to the Secretary of State and it had been formally submitted on 9 November 2006. The Council, at its meeting on 12 December, was also being asked to resolve to bring the second Revision into effect from 13 December, subject to there being no intervention from the Secretary of State.

**LDF27 SUGGESTED POLICY CHOICES AND OPTIONS FOR GROWTH –  
DOCUMENT FOR CONSULTATION**

The Group considered the working draft of the Core Strategy which was one of the key documents in the new Local Development Framework for Uttlesford and the first Development Plan document to be prepared. It would set out the long term vision and objectives for the District including broad policies for steering and shaping development and identifying broad locations for new housing growth as well as defining areas which should be protected.

The first part of the document set out a proposed vision for the District up to 2021. It then set out suggested objectives for achieving the different elements of the vision and suggested the sort of policies that might be needed in the Core Strategy to meet those objectives. It was noted that the document took into account links to plans and strategies of both the Council and other organisations and agencies. In particular, reference was made to the Vision Statement prepared by the Strategic Development Advisory Group, the Community Strategy prepared by Uttlesford Futures and the emerging Regional Strategy.

The second part of the document set out a number of options that could be used either on their own or in various combinations to deliver the housing growth that would be required in the District up to 2021.

The Group then considered each of the themes contained in Part 1 of the Document and made a number of minor changes to the text.

## THEME 1: ECONOMY EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Group agreed that the reference to “Existing Employers” should be amended to include new employers to make it more forward looking. It was also important to have sites available and have regard to their location. It was also pointed out that the opportunity to work from home was becoming increasingly important and it was questioned whether it was necessary to provide specific live/work units. It was also considered questionable whether home working actually reduced the amount of travel as often the home was used as a base and travel was made to other locations. It was also agreed that reference be made to micro generation in addition to encouraging the use of bio mass heating systems.

## THEME 2 – GETTING AROUND

It was generally agreed that public transport in the District was poorly provided and there was a need for late night buses and bus links from villages to transport hubs such as Dunmow and Braintree. It was suggested that novel solutions from around the world should be looked at. Also joined up thinking was required to ensure that development was located so as to reduce the need for travel. It was noted that fifty one per cent of households in the District had two cars or more and officers agreed to add some comparative figures in the document and to include the number of households in the District which did not have access to a car.

## THEME 3 – DISTRICT CHARACTER

It was noted that new requirements for gypsies and travellers sites were about to be prescribed and the section in the document would need to be revisited.

In paragraph CS15 it was accepted that some rural development could be allowed but the Council needed to retain control over this to prevent unsuitable development in the countryside.

It was also agreed to amend the definition of Grade 2 Agricultural Land to “Best and most versatile” agricultural land and to delete the reference in CS18 and CS20 to “unless the need for the development outweighed the historic significance of the site”.

In the section on “Our Towns” reference was made to the number of charity shops and the number of shops which were at the high quality end of the market.

It was agreed that reference should be made in CS23 to the demand for energy and water and SO16 would be amended to water and other resources. Updated figures would also be included showing comparative figures for water usage following the hosepipe ban. Page 17 of the Document would need to be reviewed following the Development Control Committee decision on the Stansted Airport Application and reference would be added to climate change and amendments to the noise criteria would be made.

#### THEME 4 – LIVING IN COMMUNITIES

Following the restructuring of the Primary Care Trust it was noted that the Council now had a lack of involvement in health services.

The Group then considered Part 2 of the Document entitled Options for Growth. Reference was made to advantages and disadvantages of a Saffron Walden by-pass and the problems caused by the shortage of rail parking. It was also suggested that more information was needed on what would make a village shop viable.

The Group then considered the next steps and it was noted that the Document would be published in January with a six week consultation period followed by an analysis of the responses with a view to a preferred option being agreed by the new Council in the summer of 2007.

The meeting ended at 12 noon.