

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK MANAGEMENT GROUP held at
COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 12.30 pm on
27 JUNE 2007**

Present:- Councillors C A Cant, J F Cheetham, E J Godwin and
A J Ketteridge.

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

LDF1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED that Councillor A J Ketteridge be appointed Chairman for
the meeting.

LDF2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J I Loughlin and
H S Rolfe.

LDF3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2007 were approved as a
correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LDF4 BUSINESS ARISING

It was noted that following the last meeting, the representations agreed on the
proposed changes to the East of England Plan had been submitted to the
Secretary of State. It was understood that additional procedures were now
required and advice had been received that the timescale would be put back
to later in the autumn.

The Group expressed concern that the Council no longer had formal links with
the Health Authority and the Leader said that he had discussed this matter
with the Chief Executive and it would be raised with the Primary Care Trust.

LDF5 UPDATE ON PROGRESS/MEMBERS' WORKSHOPS

Officers reported that consultation on the Issues and Options and Core
Strategy had progressed and the responses were being analysed with a view
to a presentation being made at the workshop on 5 July 2007. A summary of
all the representations would be available on the Intranet. It was noted that a
briefing paper would be circulated to all Members incorporating a summary of
the representations received on the growth options and stakeholder
comments would also be included. Work had also been carried out on the
sustainability appraisal and village hierarchy analysis.

The conclusion of the growth options assessment illustrated that a proposal to put all the development required in the villages scored very poorly against the objectives for the LDF. The option which scored best overall was development split between the three larger centres. Spreading developments through a hierarchy of settlements also scored well with fewer minus scores than concentrating all the development at a single centre. The three centre option was favoured generally by Essex County Council, but the Education Service had highlighted the issue of expansion of Saffron Walden High School as a potential problem which would need to be resolved. When considered against the officers' priority objectives, the three centre option and the hierarchy option still performed best, but the new settlement option also had a relatively high number of positive scores.

Officers confirmed that the Council was committed to making a decision at the Environment Committee on 4 September 2007. Prior to that, reports would be submitted to the three Area Panels and a letter would be sent to parish councils shortly concerning the consultation process. The Group asked that the Chairmen of the Area Panels be kept fully briefed on progress.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Group would focus on considering the representations on the policies.

LDF6 ENERGY EFFICIENCY SPD

It was noted that the first consultation stage had been undertaken with those on the database and twenty seven responses had been received. A draft would now be prepared for further consultation in July with a report going to the Environment Committee in October 2007.

LDF7 CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS

Officers reported that conservation area appraisals had led to work being undertaken on assessing how development on the edge of settlements impacted on the conservation areas.

LDF8 NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 9.00 am on 20 August 2007.

The meeting ended at 1.15 pm.