

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP held at  
COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 2.00 pm on  
19 MAY 2009**

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

Officers in attendance: - R Harborough (Acting Director of Development)  
S Clarke (Housing and Planning Policy Manager), M Cox  
(Democratic Services Officer), M Jones (Principal Planning  
Officer) and S Nicholas (Senior Planning Officer).

**LDF38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J I Loughlin and H S Rolfe. There were no declarations of interest.

**LDF39 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**LDF40 BUSINESS ARISING**

**i) Minute LDF35 –Local Development Scheme**

The amended Local Development Scheme had been submitted to the Government Office. At a subsequent meeting in April officials had expressed some concern at the extended programme and officers were still awaiting further comments. Officers had explained to the officials the impact of new regulations, planning policy changes and the extra studies that had been required on the LDF programme.

**ii) Minute LDF33 – Progress on LDF**

It was reported that some of the studies that had been intended to form part of the consultation in November would now be delayed. In the light of the postponement of the G2 Inquiry, the Stansted Airport additional options document could also be delayed as the Councils' inquiry evidence on air traffic forecasts would not now be finalised as anticipated. An inspector had made a visit in March to give advice on progressing the LDF. He felt that including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and details on specific sites in the autumn consultation would divert resources from the key task of pushing forward with the Core Strategy. There was still concern that advice was not consistent and officers would welcome more certainty in the process.

### **iii) Minute LDF32 (iii) Eco Town consultation**

It was noted that the agreed response to the consultation had been sent. The final form of the ecotown PPS was expected shortly.

#### **LDF41 STRATEGIC HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT (SHMA)**

It was reported that the final report was nearly completed and the detailed results would be presented to the member workshop. The initial findings suggested that 31,100 people in the study area were considered to be unsuitably housed, with 3,300 of those in the Uttlesford Area. 11% of households were classed as overcrowded. It was noted that Uttlesford was the only district within the study area that had net inward migration.

#### **LDF42 STRATEGIC LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT (SHLAA)**

Members were reminded that the aim of the study was to produce a list of sites and to assess their potential to be developed. 253 sites and 6 new settlements had been considered and had been assessed by three criteria; suitability, availability and achievability. It appeared that sufficient sites had been identified to satisfy the 5 year requirement for the provision of land. Further details would be presented at the workshop.

#### **LDF43 WATER CYCLE STUDY**

The study was continuing according to the timetable and the draft report would be discussed at a meeting the following week.

#### **LDF44 TRANSPORT ASSESSMENT**

This study would deal with the broader transport issues based around the comparison of the 4 options. A draft report had been prepared and officers were currently discussing the findings with ECC.

#### **LDF45 MEMBER WORKSHOP**

A short presentation of the findings of the SMA, the SHLAA, the Water Study and the Transport Assessment would be considered by a Member workshop. It was felt that a convenient time would be early July with a start time of 6.30pm. A further workshop would be held in the autumn to consider the results of the next consultation.

LDF45

## **GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS – RESPONSE TO RSS SINGLE ISSUE REVIEW**

Members were informed that a response to the latest consultation was required by the end of the week. The previous consultation had suggested that all authorities should accommodate 15 additional pitches and this had been accepted by the Council. Uttlesford was now being asked to accommodate 25 pitches (another 10). This increase was higher than many other authorities in Essex. The working group asked officers to communicate its concerns. Members were dismayed at the proposed increase and requested Uttlesford to reiterate its position that it objects to any further increase in the 15 additional pitches.

LDF46

## **RSS UPDATE**

The Working Group was advised that ECC had written to EERA about the disproportionate scale of housing development that was proposed for Essex.

The Regional Assembly was currently looking at a consultation early in September with the preferred option published early in the New Year. This was a tight timetable that appeared to be driven by the timetable for transfer of the responsibility for the regional spatial strategy from EERA to EEDA in spring 2010. There was some concern that this tight timetable would not allow enough time for full consideration of all the issues. Notwithstanding the latest date for the next general election, the Council needed to support strongly the representations being made by the County Council when EERA carries out its consultation.

LDF47

## **NEXT MEETING**

It was suggested that the next meeting should be held prior to the Member workshop on 8 July.

The meeting ended at 3.15pm