

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP held at
COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 9.30am
on 2 MARCH 2012**

Present: Councillor J Ketteridge – Chairman.
Councillors S Barker, C Cant, J Loughlin, J Menell, E
Oliver, V Ranger, H Rolfe and D Watson.

Officers in attendance: M Cox (Democratic Services Officer), A Taylor
(Assistant Director Planning and Building Control), M
Jones (Principal Planning Officer), S Nicholas (Senior
Planning Officer, H Hayden (Planning Officer) and Alan
Storah (Planning Officer).

LDF56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Cheetham and
E Godwin.

LDF57 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2012 were received and
signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

LDF58 LDF CONSULTATION UPDATE

The working group was given details of the responses to the consultation
to date. The representations were currently being collated and would
inform the consultation report which would be considered at the meeting
on 5 April 2012. There had been a number of recurring issues in the
responses mainly around the lack of overall housing numbers,
insufficient evidence to support the need for sites and questioning the
basis for the allocation of key settlements.

The exhibitions and two Area Forums had been well received by the
public and press. The Chairman thanked officers for their attendance at
these events and for their professionalism in answering questions from
members of the public.

Members discussed the representations that had been received. It was
important to reiterate the message that the council had no option but to
make provision for future development in the district.

LDF59 DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

The Demographic Study was expected shortly. A report would be made
to the meeting on 2 April 2012 when the working group would

recommend the preferred scenario. This would then be referred to the Scrutiny Committee on 3 April prior to the Cabinet decision at its meeting on 5 April 2012.

In answer to a member question, it was confirmed that the study had the status as a credible independent study. The study would be able to justify the figures and the logic behind each scenario. However it would be up to this Council to choose the preferred scenario for the district and set out the reasons for this choice.

LDF60 DRAFT CORE STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES

The working group considered the Council's objectives for the Local Development Framework. This list had been devised in 2006 and included both the vision and the objectives for the Core Strategy. It was now necessary to review this in the light of changing national policy and local priorities to ensure they were relevant. The Assistant Director Planning and Building Control circulated a revised version which was considered by the working group. A number of amendments were suggested and these would be built in the final version to be included within the Strategy.

LDF61 DUTY TO COOPERATE

The working group was given details of the new duty to co-operate that was included in the Localism Act. This required the planning authority to engage with other public bodies on strategic planning issues that crossed administrative boundaries. The report set out the draft list of bodies that had been included in the Local Plan regulations and also other bodies that officers had identified. Members suggested other organisations that could be added to the list. The document would be updated and forwarded to Cabinet for final approval.

AGREED that the updated report be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

LDF62 FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates and times of future meetings were noted as follows:

Monday 2 April – 4.00pm
Thursday 5 April – 9.30am
Friday 11 May – 9.30am
Friday 6 July – 9.30am
Friday 3 August – 9.30am

The meeting ended at 11.00am.