

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP held at
COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 9.30am
on 6 JULY 2012**

Present: Councillor J Ketteridge – Chairman.
Councillors S Barker, C Cant, J Cheetham, K Eden, E
Godwin, 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), S
Nicholas (Senior Planning Officer) and R Harborough
(Director of Public Services).

LDF1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Loughlin.

LDF2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2012 were received and
signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

LDF3 REPORT ON CONSULTATION

The Senior Planning Officer gave an update on the current consultation
which was running from 8 June to 23 July. The consultation events had
now been completed and members noted the common issues at each
venue as follows

- Scale of development
- Loss of agricultural land
- Impact on local services.
- Use of minimum numbers
- Employment opportunities for the increase in housing

They were also advised of the specific comments made to the
developments proposed in each of the key settlements. The number of
visitors and responses were roughly half of those received during the
previous consultation. All the responses received until the closing date
would be logged and included in a report of representations.

Members were aware that residents had strong opinions on the
proposals and it was therefore important to communicate to the public
how their responses would be dealt with. It was explained that each site
would be looked at in detail and a number of factors considered including
the responses from the stakeholders and service providers and the
evidence base from the various studies that had been commissioned.
These would be considered alongside the issues and problems raised by

residents, action groups and other bodies before the Council decided on its priorities.

Members expressed concern about the availability of infrastructure to support the new developments particularly in relation to health and also highway issues in areas that already had significant traffic congestion.

The Assistant Director Planning and Building Control said that consultants were being commissioned to undertake a detailed study of the allocated sites to assess whether they were acceptable in highway terms and any mitigation measures that would be required. Alongside this there would also be a viability assessment which would look at the deliverability of the Local Plan as a whole and the extent of the infrastructure required.

A further update on responses received would be presented to the next meeting, after the consultation period had closed.

LDF4

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

The working group considered a preliminary report on a further iteration of the Greater Essex Demographic forecasts as more information had become available. Further information was still awaited and would be considered at the next meeting of the group.

The meeting ended at 11.00 am.