

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

Present: Councillor J Ketteridge – Chairman.
Councillors C Cant, J Cheetham, E Godwin, J Menell, E
Oliver, V Ranger and H Rolfe.

Officers in attendance: M Cox (Democratic Services Officer), M Jones
(Principal Planning Officer) and R Harborough (Director of
Public Services).

LDF5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Barker.

LDF6 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2012 were received and
signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

LDF7 BUSINESS ARISING

i) Minute LDF4 – Democratic Study

Phase 3 of the study had now been published and was available on the
County Council and Uttlesford websites. Information was still awaited in
relation to phase 4 of the study, which would include the census
information.

LDF8 CONSULTATION - UPDATE

The Principal Planning Officer updated members on the responses to the
recent consultation. Around 4000 comments had been made on-line and
these were currently being uploaded onto the system.

Members commented that some people appeared to have found the on-
line system difficult to use and asked if there had been many complaints
to this effect. In reply the Principal Planning Officer explained that in the
recent consultation stage the opportunity to comment appeared after
each policy rather than at each section of the text. She said that as there
were other means of submitting comments the public had tended to use
the method that they found the most convenient.

LDF9

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIONS FROM CONSULTATION EVENTS

The final report of representations from the consultation events was now available. This included comments made at the public exhibitions, and the North and South Forum. There would be a separate report dealing with the other representation which would list the comments made in relation to each policy.

Now that the consultation had closed, Members discussed the next stage in the process. Officers advised that it might be necessary to review the Local Plan timetable and a report would be brought to the next meeting of the working group.

LDF10

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK COMPATIBILITY

The working group was informed that the Council had commissioned independent advice to review the saved policies of the Local Plan to determine whether they were consistent with the NPPF. The document listed each policy in the local plan against the NPPF stance on the policy topic. It assessed the degree to which each policy was consistent with the NPPF and how it should be regarded in determining applications. It had been found that on the whole the plan was generally consistent with the NPPF and many of its aims and objectives were embedded in the local plan, although it was noted that there certain areas where the Local Plan had been superseded.

Currently there was an ad hoc assessment of policies and it was hoped that this document would ensure consistency to the approach. It was intended to forward the document to Cabinet to adopt as a guide to the policy framework for the consideration of planning applications. The working group agreed to this approach subject to the document first being considered by the Planning Committee.

The meeting ended at 10.30 am.