

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Briefing Note: Sustainable Community Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 3 November 2011
Report of: Spatial Planning Manager
Subject/Title: LDF Panel - Report of Progress
Portfolio Holder: Cllr David Brown

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 This report provides an overview of the work of the LDF Panel during this past year and outlines the work programme for the forthcoming year.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the Sustainable Community Scrutiny Committee notes the report.

3.0 Wards Affected

3.1 All

4.0 Local Ward Members

4.1 All

5.0 LDP Panel – Progress Report

5.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council is required to prepare a statutory development plan to guide the future planning and development of our towns, villages and countryside for the next 15 years or so. The Local Development Framework will be a single plan for Cheshire East and will replace the Regional Spatial Strategy, the Cheshire Structure Plan, Cheshire Waste and Minerals Plans and the Local Plans for Congleton, Macclesfield and Crewe and Nantwich. The new Local Development Framework will cover all of Cheshire East except the area that lies within the Peak District National Park.

5.2 The Local Development Framework will consist of three main reports:

- Core Strategy – this will set out the vision, objectives and strategy for the future development of the Borough. It may include strategic development sites.
- Site Allocations Plan – this will include detailed policies to be used in considering planning applications as well as site allocations and policies.

- Infrastructure Plan - this will set out the improvements required to transport, social and community infrastructure, such as schools and health services, that will be required to serve new development. It will set out a programme for their development and any financial contributions that new developments will be required to make.

5.3 The Local Development Framework will be an important plan for the Council and its partners. The Plan will be vital in delivering the Council's ambitions to unlock the potential of our towns, to create conditions for business growth and to ensure that we plan for a sustainable future, as set out in "Ambition for All". The Local Development Framework will aim to ensure that Cheshire East continues to have:

- a thriving economy
- an attractive environment
- a wide choice of housing
- vibrant town centres with good quality shops and leisure facilities,
- schools, health and community facilities,
- a choice of transport

5.4 The plan is being prepared in consultation with a large number of stakeholders from the areas of business, housing, transport and environmental interests as well as local communities; there are a several stages of consultation during the plan's preparation when we will seek their input. The process for preparing the draft plan is governed by statutory Regulations and includes consideration by an independent planning inspector at a public examination to determine whether the plan is "sound". Over recent years many plans have also been subject to legal challenges by developers seeking to protect their interests.

5.5 By its nature the plan is controversial and it is therefore vitally important that each stage of the plan's preparation is carefully considered by Members. It has been agreed that the formal process for approving the draft plan and the final adoption of the Plan will be through the Strategic Planning Board, Cabinet and Council.

5.6 The LDF Panel was established with Members representing all parts of the Borough to act as a sounding board to provide a steer to officers throughout the early stages of preparing the plan. There are many instances where the input of Members and their wealth of local knowledge is beneficial to officers in the preparation of the Plan. The LDF Panel also provides the opportunity for officers to brief Members on key findings of research studies.

5.7 During the last 12 months the LDF Panel has considered the following matters:

- Review of the timetable for the LDF (the Local Development Scheme)
- Format of the LDF

- Background evidence reports on housing, waste needs and renewable energy
- The consultation on the Issues and Options for levels of growth and the development strategy
- The format of the Place Shaping Consultation
- The proposals for Neighbourhood Planning
- Consultations on the BAE Woodford site
- Annual Monitoring Report
- Changes in legislation and guidance affecting development planning.

5.7 The programme for the next 12 months will include:

- Monitoring progress with the preparation of the LDF and review of timetable, if necessary
- Background evidence reports on the growth projections and employment land review
- Feedback from the Place Shaping Consultation
- Monitoring progress with CLG Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard
- Considering draft strategies for towns and associated policies
- Annual Monitoring Report
- Changes in legislation and guidance affecting development planning

6.0 Contact Details:

Name: Rosemary Kidd
 Designation: Spatial Planning Manager
 Tel No: 01270 685921
 Email: rosemary.kidd@cheshireeast.gov.uk