

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## PLACES ADVISORY PANEL

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**Date of meeting:** 16 December 2008  
**Report of:** Block Lead  
**Title:** Local Development Framework Task Group

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### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform the Panel of the progress being made by the Local Development Framework (LDF) Task Group for Cheshire East.

### **2.0 Decision Required**

- 2.1 To note the report from the LDF Task Group, to agree the need for an urgent project plan for the LDF work and to support the proposed joint working with Cheshire West and Chester Councils on minerals and waste policy making

### **3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs**

- 3.1 Officer time to support the Task Group pre-Vesting Day.

### **4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond**

- 4.1 The financial implications will depend on the key decisions made about the Local Development Scheme and the development of the plans and policies therein

### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Local Development Framework is a statutory requirement undertaken by all constituent authorities and will be one of the key policy documents for the new authority. Continuity of policies is essential to meet statutory requirements and community expectations.

### **6.0 Risk Assessment**

- 6.1 Detailed risk assessments will need to be undertaken as various issues requiring member views are developed.

### **7.0 Background and Options**

- 7.1 The Panel established the LDF Task Group at its first meeting in recognition of the need for early commencement of officer and member work in this area. The group has now met on three occasions, most

recently on 3 December at which the three main items were: a progress report on the Local Development Scheme (LDS), the evidence base for the Core strategy and LDF related minerals and waste policy development through joint working with Cheshire West.

#### 7.2 Local Development Scheme

The Cabinet at its meeting on 2 December reconsidered the Local Development Scheme including the recommendations from the previous meeting of this Panel and the Task Group. Initial comments had been received from the Government Office for the North West (GONW) to whom the Local Development Scheme had to be submitted before the end of December 2008 and these had been reported to Cabinet. The Task Group received an update from the Portfolio Holder and officers on the version of the Scheme to be presented to Council for approval on 9 December 2008 prior to formal submission to GONW.

#### 7.3 Core Strategy

The Task Group received an update on preliminary work towards the preparation of the Core Strategy. The LDS includes a timetable and sequence of work particularly the collection of an evidence base to support the strategy. Work was underway on housing needs assessments, housing land availability assessments and employment land assessments. A project plan needed to be written for this work to provide a detailed implementation plan alongside the LDS.

#### 7.4 Minerals and waste policies

Discussions had been held with Cheshire West and Chester Council about joint working for minerals and waste planning policies. The Portfolio Holder reported on discussions with that Council which would enable officers to work jointly on these matters but with clear reporting arrangements to the two authorities. This joint working would have implications for the LDS which would need to be slightly amended to reflect joint officer arrangements. Members supported the initiative but were concerned that this should not delay Council's approval of the LDS at its meeting on 9 December. Officers were asked to consider a suitable way forward and as verbal update on this will be given to the Panel.

### 8.0 Reasons for Recommendation

8.1 To provide a summary update on the Task Group's work

8.2 To support the preparation of a Project Plan for further LDF work and the proposed joint working on minerals and waste policy development

#### ***For further information:***

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