

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	16 th September 2014
Report of:	Principal Planning Manager
Subject/Title:	Notice of Motion – Definition of Sustainable Development
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr David Brown, Strategic Outcomes

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1. Council resolved at its meeting on 17 July 2014 that a motion made in relation to the defining of sustainable development to enable planning officers to objectively assess applications be referred to Cabinet. The motion is set out in paragraph 10.2. This report addresses the motion.
- 1.2. The concept of sustainable development is wide ranging with many interwoven factors. Planning Officers already consider sustainable development in assessing applications while the emerging Cheshire East Local Plan contains specific policies on sustainable development.

Recommendations

- 2.1. That Cabinet consider the merits of the motion set out in paragraph 10.2.
- 2.2. That Cabinet note the report and the current and emerging policies that exist for assessing sustainability in planning applications.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To enable Cabinet to consider the matter raised in the motion and to propose any further actions that Cabinet may feel is appropriate.

4. Wards Affected

- 4.1 All wards

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All Ward Members

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 Planning policies are formed through the Development Plan which is set nationally within the NPPF and via the formation of local plans which must go through a set legislative procedure. The Submission Version of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy was agreed by Council on 28 February 2014.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Council has a statutory duty to consider appropriate Development Plan policies and material considerations within all planning applications. To adopt policies that do not conform to national policies principles could leave the Council exposed to legal challenge.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 There are no associated risks.

10. Background and Options

- 10.1 A motion titled "Definition of Sustainable Development" was proposed to Council at its meeting on 17 July 2014, by Councillor S Corcoran.

- 10.2 The content of the motion was as follows:

"This Council should provide a working definition of sustainable development in Cheshire that our planning officers could use and justify objectively when assessing planning applications."

- 10.3. In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules within the Constitution, Council resolved that the matter stand referred to Cabinet.

- 10.4. The concept of sustainability is an extremely complicated one with many interwoven factors needing to be addressed to ensure a successful approach. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future sets out five guiding principles of sustainable development: living within the planet's environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly

- 10.5. Planning Officers are guided by the Development Plan which encompasses the existing Local Plan policies, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the emerging Cheshire East Local Plan. The NPPF itself is built around supporting sustainable development and therefore Officers will refer to sustainable development within

reports as necessary. This often includes such things as how the development performs against the NW Sustainability Toolkit which provides objective guidance on locational sustainability. However, as highlighted within the NPPF there are three tranches of sustainable development - environmental, social and economic which should not be viewed in isolation because they are mutually dependent.

- 10.6. There are now also two specific policies within the Submission Version of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy which build on the advice within the NPPF:

Policy SD1 – Sustainable Development in Cheshire East

Policy SD2 – Sustainable Development Principles.

- 10.7. All of these matters in respect of sustainability are balanced when planning officers consider planning applications. The weight that is attached to the individual and cumulative aspects of sustainability is a matter for the decision maker on a case by case basis.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers from the NPPF, current and emerging plans are available on the Council's website or by contacting the report writer:

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