

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

Date of Meeting: 17th July 2012
Report of: Strategic Director - Places
Subject/Title: Draft Crewe Town Strategy
Portfolio Holder: Councillor David Brown

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 This report seeks agreement to the publication of the Draft Crewe Town Strategy, for public consultation, to ultimately form part of the evidence base for the Cheshire East Local Plan.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the Portfolio Holder agrees:

- The publication of the Draft Crewe Town Strategy, for public consultation; and
- The use of the finalised document as part of the evidence base for the Cheshire East Local Plan.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

3.1 The Draft Crewe Town Strategy, along with Draft Town Strategies for the towns of Handforth, Knutsford, Nantwich, Poynton and Macclesfield will undergo public consultation during the summer of 2012. They will then be revised, to take into account the consultation responses and will form part of the evidence base for the Cheshire East Local Plan.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 The Wards affected lie within Crewe and its surrounding areas; they are as follows: Crewe Central; Crewe East; Crewe North; Crewe South; Crewe St Barnabas; Crewe West; Haslington; Leighton; Shavington; Willaston and Rope; Wistaston; Wybunbury.

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 Crewe Central – Councillor Irene Faseyi; Crewe East – Councillor Margaret Martin; Councillor David Newton; Councillor Chris Thorley; Crewe North – Councillor Mo Grant; Crewe South – Councillor Dorothy Flude; Councillor Steven Hogben; Crewe St Barnabas – Councillor Roy Cartledge; Crewe West – Councillor Peter Nurse; Councillor Michelle Sherratt; Haslington – Councillor John Hammond; Councillor David Marren; Leighton – Councillor Derek Bebbington; Shavington – Councillor David Brickhill; Willaston and Rope – Councillor Brian Silvester; Wistaston –

Councillor Margaret Simon; Councillor Jacqueline Weatherill; Wybunbury –
Councillor Janet Clowes.

6.0 Policy Implications (including carbon reduction and health)

- 6.1 The Draft Crewe Town Strategy will help to inform relevant Policies in the Cheshire East Local Plan and will include sites that could potentially be identified as Strategic Sites within the Cheshire East Local Plan Core strategy or development sites within the Site Allocations document.
- 6.2 A Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out for the Draft Crewe Town Strategy; it includes the requirements of a Health Impact Assessment. The Sustainability Appraisal will also be the subject of public consultation, at the same time as the Draft Town Strategies.

7.0 Financial Implications (authorised by Director of Finance and Business Services)

- 7.1 The publication of the Town Strategy for public consultation and its use in the development of the Local Plan will be managed within existing budgets. Any subsequent capital investment (e.g. funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy) will be considered as part of the Council's future strategic capital planning processes.

8.0 Legal Implications (authorised by Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 Paragraph 17 of the National Planning Policy Framework sets out 12 principles that should underpin plan-making and decision taking. They include empowering local people to shape their surroundings. It is considered that the Town Strategy process provides a way of ensuring that this will happen.
- 8.2 Paragraph 155 of the National Planning Policy Framework also states that early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses is essential. Again, it is considered that the Town Strategy process provides a way of ensuring that this will happen.

9.0 Risk Management Implications

- 9.1 The Draft Crewe Town Strategy will undergo public consultation; further work will also be carried out in relation to the potential development sites in the document, with regard to their suitability for development and deliverability.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 Public consultation has already taken place on Draft Town Strategies for Alsager, Congleton, Middlewich, Sandbach and Wilmslow. Stakeholder Panels were formed for those towns, who were assisted to write their Draft Town Strategies by Cheshire East Council (Broadway Malyan, in the case of Wilmslow). The Draft Town Strategies were agreed for the purpose of public consultation, by the relevant Town Councils.

- 10.2 This process is also taking place in the towns of Crewe, Handforth, Knutsford, Nantwich, Poynton and Macclesfield. In the case of Crewe, the Crewe Local Members have formed the Stakeholder Panel and they took part in two Workshops to develop the Draft Town Strategy. In addition, members of the All Change for Crewe Project Board/Groups and Parish Councils were invited to a workshop. A copy of the draft Strategy is attached. It sets out a vision for the town, key objectives, potential development sites and key infrastructure priorities. Although the Crewe Local Members have now agreed the content of the document, for the purpose of public consultation, a Crewe Town Council does not yet exist and therefore there is a need for formal agreement of the Portfolio Holder.
- 10.3 All of the Town Strategies will ultimately form part of the evidence base for the Cheshire East Local Plan and will help to inform Policy writing and the identification of Strategic Sites and sites for inclusion in the Site Allocations document.
- 10.4 The Cheshire East Local Plan will not however be bound by the content of the Town Strategies.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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