

CABINET (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK) COMMITTEE

6 October 2010

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGIC PLANNING

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RECENT REFERENCES:

[CAB 2040](#) Winchester District Development Framework – Local Development Framework Update – 22 July 2010

[CAB 1983](#) - Winchester District Development Framework – Core Strategy Preferred Option – Feedback on Consultation (Chapters 7-16) – 12 March 2010

[CAB 1944](#) - Winchester District Development Framework – Core Strategy Preferred Option – Feedback on Consultation (Chapters 4-6) – 15 December 2009

[CAB 1908](#) - Winchester District Development Framework – Core Strategy Preferred Option – Feedback on Consultation (Chapters 1-3) - 20 October 2009

[CAB 1823](#) – Winchester District Development Framework – Recommended Core Strategy Preferred Option Document (Cabinet (Local Development Framework Committee) – 25 March 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the meeting of this Committee on 22 July 2010 it was agreed that there was a need for further consultation on the LDF given the removal of the Regional Spatial Strategy and District-wide housing targets. The emphasis is now on 'localism' and allowing local communities to discuss what type of place they want – 'place shaping'.

On this basis, the Council has derived an exciting new programme for community consultation based on a series of 'characters' to debate their needs and requirements looking ahead 10 – 20 years. The format of the consultation allows

local groups, whether large or small, to participate. Data packs will be available for any group wishing to participate and all the background information will be available to view or download from dedicated pages on the Council's website.

The consultation period commenced on 4 October 2010 and runs until 10 December 2010, after which the results will be assessed and used to inform not only a revised LDF Core Strategy but also other documents being prepared by the Council including a review of the Vision for Winchester.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the 'Blueprint' consultation process that commenced on 4 October 2010 be endorsed.
2. That all Council Members be encouraged to liaise with their local communities and interest groups to promote this opportunity to contribute.

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### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

#### REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGIC PLANNING

#### DETAIL:

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise the additional consultation arrangements for the Local Development Framework Core Strategy as agreed at the meeting of this Committee on 22 July 2010 ([CAB 2040\(LDF\)](#) refers). That report acknowledged the need for further consultation, particularly in relation to the number of new homes to be built in the District over the next twenty years, given the demise of the regional spatial plan in July this year and the removal of imposed housing targets.
- 1.2 This report therefore details the consultation plan and tools to be used. Given the amount of consultation that has already taken place in relation to the Core Strategy, this process has been designed to be fundamentally different so as to encourage participation and engagement. It has also been designed to allow the outcomes to contribute to a number of other key Council plans and projects in addition to the Local Development Framework.
- 1.3 The emphasis this time is therefore placed on people and their communities, whether this is a neighbourhood in a larger town or a small rural village, or even a single issue group such as a sports club. This approach is based on the concept of 'place shaping' – *working with people, to create places where people can thrive*, and supports the 'localism' agenda embedded in emerging government policy from the Coalition Government.
- 1.4 The importance of this consultation must not be overlooked, as local communities now have a major say in how they are developed following the abolition of regional housing targets. It will be necessary for those who get involved to take a serious and open minded look at the future of the District's towns and villages to ensure that they remain sustainable and serve the people who live and work there. Failure to do so could result in ineffective policies which could then threaten the long-term viability of some communities. Blaming the Government, or indeed the Council, or pretending no change is a feasible alternative to not planning for the future, are not options. Those participating will need to take ownership not only of the debate but also the results of the discussion that will then be submitted to the Council for consideration and translation into spatial planning policies.

## 2 Details of 'Blueprint'

### Branding

- 2.1 This consultation exercise has provided an opportunity to create a new 'brand', to not only demonstrate a commitment to localism but to also highlight the value the Council is placing on other organisations to come up with their own suggestions for the future of their communities, rather than the Council presenting pre-determined options.
- 2.2 It is envisaged that, given the local emphasis of this consultation, the findings will be able to inform a number of key projects that the Council is currently undertaking, including the Vision for Winchester and Winchester Town Access Plan. In addition those parish councils that are in the process of commencing or reviewing their parish plans will also be able to contribute to, and use, the results.
- 2.3 Hence, the revised branding: "**Blueprint – be the community architect ; no targets just real needs...**", to emphasise that the top-down targets previously imposed no longer exist, but also that there remains a necessity to address local needs, whether this relates to housing, employment or other community requirements, and for these to be reflected in the emerging Local Development Framework.

### Methodology

- 2.4 To attempt to understand the range of needs and requirements in a community looking ahead over the next 10-20 years is a challenging aspiration. Blueprint therefore focuses on people's needs through the creation of typical 'characters' that exist and have been designed to consider how the housing, employment, transport and community/health requirements of each character in turn may change over the longer term and what needs to be done to ensure these needs are met. This is very much about 'what kind of place do you want to live in, in the future and how do we ensure this happens'.
- 2.5 The purpose of these characters is to not only prompt debate and discussion, but to challenge people to put themselves in the position of others, and to help focus responses on what changes may arise and need to be accommodated over the plan period.
- 2.6 The idea is that participants role-play by considering each character and discussing how their needs would change through a typical life cycle. This will then highlight possible shortfalls in provision whether this be for affordable family homes, homes for the elderly or appropriate business premises or other community provision.
- 2.7 This process has been designed to be flexible so that it can be used by large or small groups, such as parish councils through organised public events; youth groups; churches, elderly groups, WIs; sport/arts organisations or single

issue groups. The Council will provide guidance through the provision of a toolkit and data pack and in the case of the larger settlements a contact officer, but will not organise and run events - this will be down to local communities. Every community will be encouraged to participate and dedicated pages on the Council's website will be updated regularly and all background material will be available to view or download from the Council's Website: [www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk)

### Toolkit

- 2.8 To assist this process the Council has prepared 'packs' to be made available to local communities and groups wishing to participate, these include:-
- Introductory text and information (to be used by the lead organisation to introduce their event, links to various web pages)
  - Settlement profiles (key facts and figures about the larger settlements in the District together with a District profile to demonstrate population changes, household formation, cost of housing, availability of public transport etc)
  - Character profiles (description of the characters created together with key data i.e. earnings and prompt questions to focus the debate)
  - Maps (these will be provided for the larger settlements to allow participants to discuss potential sites for development if they determine that there is a need for a certain type of development having discussed each character)

### Timescale

- 2.9 'Blueprint' officially commenced on 4 October 2010 and will run to 10 December 2010, providing 10 weeks during which discussions can be held.
- 2.10 Prior to the official launch a number of briefing sessions have been run by the Council to inform the larger parish councils of this new process and to stress the importance of this exercise. In addition key stakeholders in Winchester have been made aware of this opportunity to debate the future of Winchester Town as part of the review of the Vision for Winchester which will be undertaken in parallel.

### Next Steps

- 2.11 Following completion of this consultation, the Council will consider all the comments and suggestions received and, along with any revised technical evidence or new Government advice, will prepare a revised LDF Core Strategy for consultation during 2011.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:3 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN (RELEVANCE TO):

- 3.1 As part of progressing effective spatial planning of the District, the Core Strategy is one of the key implementation mechanisms for the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy. To this extent the Core Strategy reflects the outcomes of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the emerging strategic planning policies will be expressed to cover these matters where there is a land use planning requirement for their delivery. It is envisaged, even through the revised planning regime and the emphasis now on localism, that this element will continue to be a core requirement of any replacement LDF.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 The key resources for undertaking work on the LDF have been approved as part of the budget process. All materials and resources for Blueprint have been serviced through existing budgets and staff skills.

The nature and scale of the LDF will continue to require shared resources in terms of utilising skills and expertise from other Teams within the Council. This is now even more critical given the emphasis on localism.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 5.1 The Council's Local Development Scheme was approved by Government Office for the South East in late 2009 and 'brought into effect' at Cabinet on 3 February 2010 ([CAB1969](#) refers). There remains some uncertainty about how the LDF system will continue in the longer term, pending the publication of the Localism Bill expected during November 2010. This report outlines a consultation approach that will provide an opportunity for all communities to discuss 'place shaping' and how they wish to see their community change, and the outcomes of this consultation will be used to formulate spatial planning policies in the emerging Core Strategy, including the creation of a District housing target.
- 5.2 A greater risk to the Council in the short term is the issue of an ageing Local Plan and possible lack of local housing need data on which to base decisions about residential development. This could result in an increasing number of appeals which will require additional resources to defend.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

None