

**DRAFT ISSUES AND OPTIONS FOR CORE STRATEGY DPD  
AMENDMENT  
(Report by Head of Planning Services)**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the draft Issues and Options proposed for consultation with statutory consultees and stakeholders on the amendment to the Spatial Vision and Strategy element of the Core Strategy DPD as requested by the Inspector at the pre-examination meeting into the Core Strategy. The draft paper is contained in appendix A.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Following the publication of the Inspector's reports of the examinations into the Lichfield and Stafford Core Strategy Development Plan Documents, the Government clarified its approach regarding the required content of Core Strategies. Consequently the Council had discussions with the Government Office for the East of England about the need for further work to supplement the spatial element of our Core Strategy.
- 2.2 The Inspector appointed to consider the soundness of our Core Strategy duly postponed the planned date for the commencement of the examination into the strategy (which had been scheduled for January 2007). This postponement was to allow the Council to address the need to produce additional spatial guidance, particularly regarding the potential location of new housing and employment development. Since this time Go-East has requested that further guidance also be provided on the potential location of retail development.
- 2.3 Particular emphasis has been placed on the need to identify broad directions of growth in Core Strategies to provide guidance for site specific allocations in Planning Proposals DPDs. In order to ascertain the suitability of broad areas for growth it was necessary to first undertake the Housing Land Availability Assessment and the Employment Land Review to provide the required evidence base. With draft versions of these documents substantially complete it was possible to identify broad directions where growth might be suitable.
- 2.4 The draft consultation paper has also taken account of the proposed changes to the East of England Plan and PPS3: Housing (December 2006).

**3 HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND RETAIL REQUIREMENTS**

- 3.1 The Draft East of England Plan has confirmed an allocation of 11,200 new homes to be built in Huntingdonshire for the period 2001 – 2021. The housing numbers

allocated to a district should be regarded as a minimum target to be achieved. 8,500 houses have already been built or committed for the period 2001-2006 leaving 2,700 to find.

- 3.2 However, PPS3 specifies that Local Planning Authorities should set out policies and strategies that will enable continuous delivery of housing for at least 15 years from the date of adoption. It is anticipated that the Core Strategy will be adopted at the end of 2008. To ensure a 15 year supply the strategy would need to consider housing delivery up to 2024. The draft East of England Plan advises that the annual average rate of housing required for 2006-2021 should continue to be sought during the early years after 2021. For Huntingdonshire this means a further 550 homes per year would be required from 2021 until 2024, equal to a further 1650 homes. This gives a total of 4,350 homes to find.
- 3.3 Updated labour supply and demand projections forecast the provision of 8,000 additional jobs for period 2006 – 2016. The draft Employment Land Review (2007) identifies 70ha of employment land which is allocated and could contribute to creating sustainable, mixed communities. A further 60ha of employment land needs to be identified to meet demand to 2021.
- 3.4 The Huntingdonshire Retail Assessment Study (2005) considered the potential additional floorspace requirements to 2021 for convenience and comparison retailing. This has been supplemented by an Update (2007) giving more detailed assessments on potential distribution of the overall requirement. The study suggests a target of 21,600 sq m net additional comparison floorspace and 3,900 sq m net additional convenience floorspace.
- 3.5 Altogether the Core Strategy needs to consider the most sustainable broad directions of growth for 4,350 additional homes, 60 ha of employment land and 21,600 sq m of retail floorspace. The Core Strategy should give a broad spatial indication of the scale and location of growth. The proposed Issues and Options consultation paper considers how this might be achieved.

#### **4 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 This draft Issues and Options paper was first discussed by Members at the Development Plans Advisory Group on 24 January. It was presented to Development Control Panel on 5<sup>th</sup> February and, following some amendments to the text, to Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) on 13<sup>th</sup> February. The intention is to proceed to Regulation 25 consultation with statutory consultees and other stakeholders, including town and parish councils by April subject to Go-East approving a revised Local Development Scheme. The representations received and our proposed responses to them will subsequently be reported to Members.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 That the Cabinet approve the attached draft Issues and Options paper (incorporating minor amendments from the DC Panel and Overview and Scrutiny Panel) for the purposes of consulting with statutory consultees, the community and stakeholders.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Huntingdonshire Core Strategy Submission DPD (April 2006)  
Huntingdonshire Housing Land Availability Assessment (draft January 2007)  
Huntingdonshire Employment Land Review (draft results January 2007)  
PPS3: Housing (2006)  
Minutes of the Pre-Examination Meeting into the Soundness of the  
Huntingdonshire Core Strategy DPD (20 September 2006)

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