

**ROLL FORWARD OF THE CORE STRATEGY – LOCAL PLAN PROJECT PLAN  
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being))**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered a report by the Head of Planning Services on the proposed scope, coverage and production timetable of the new Local Plan. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the Panel's discussions.

**2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS**

- 2.1 The process leading to the adoption of the new Local Plan will require significant levels of additional resources. Members have acknowledged that although the Council's Development Plans Team will take the lead in preparing all development plan documents, monitoring reports and the statement of community involvement, specialist consultants will be required for certain aspects of Plan production, which will prove costly. There is already provision in the budget for this purpose.
- 2.2 Having noted that the Plan should be "prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements", the Panel has reiterated its concerns regarding the Council's lack of influence over the implementation of infrastructure works.
- 2.3 The Panel is conscious of the difficulties that the Planning service will face while the new Plan is developed owing to the uncertain policy position that will exist, particularly as the Government has not finalised its position on planning. There is, therefore, a need to complete the process expeditiously but Members are concerned that the Council's partners will not be able to complete the work required of them sufficiently quickly to enable the timetable in the Local Development Scheme to be met.
- 2.4 Members have been advised that contingency plans have been developed in relation to travellers' sites and wind farms that will be used until the necessary policies have been adopted.
- 2.5 The Panel has suggested that arrangements should be made to inform Members of the provisions of the new Local Plan. There will be an opportunity to discuss it at the next full Council meeting and a seminar is planned for all Members and Town and Parish Councils.
- 2.6 With the exception of Councillor C R Hyams who abstained from voting, the Panel has supported the recommendation in the report by the Head of Planning Services.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to take into consideration the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) as set out above when considering this item.

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**Background documents – Reports and Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012.**