

**Local Development Framework Core Strategy Draft for Pre-Submission Consultation**

Agenda Item 9

**Portfolio Area:** Cllr Harley Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Culture  
**Report Presented by:** Eleanor Dash Planning Policy Manager

**Background Papers:** One District-One Vision A Draft Strategy for People and Places in the Braintree District to 2025.  
 LDF Panel Reports/Minutes approving changes to the Core Strategy on 15.4.09, 20.5.09, 17.6.09, 29.7.09, 2.9.09, 18.11.09.

**Corporate Implications:** Please refer to table at end of report.

- Options:**
- To approve the draft Core Strategy Submission document.
  - Not to approve the draft Core Strategy Submission Document
  - To approve changes to the draft Core Strategy Submission Document

**Risks:** That the Core Strategy could be found unsound.

**Executive Summary**

This report sets out draft Core Strategy, which will be published for pre-Submission consultation. It includes changes approved by the LDF Panel following public consultation and further changes arising from Evidence Base studies. Subject to the Council's approval of this draft, it will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and Equality Impact Assessment and will be sent to key partners for final comments. These will be reported to the LDF Panel on 14<sup>th</sup> April for final changes prior to pre- Submission Consultation from the end of April for a six week period.

**Decision**

To approve the Core Strategy Submission Draft for pre-Submission Consultation, subject to final changes by the LDF Panel on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**1 Background**

1.1 The One District- One Vision draft joint Core Strategy and Sustainable Community Strategy was published in October 2008.

1.2 There was public consultation on the joint document between October and December 2008. The responses that were received were reported to the Panel and changes were approved to the draft Core Strategy at Panel meetings during the early part of 2009. It has been necessary to separate the Core Strategy from the Sustainable Community Strategy, in order that the Core Strategy can be found sound by the Planning Inspectorate.

1.3 Additional policy documents and evidence base studies which have been produced, since the public consultation, have also given rise to further changes to the draft Core

Strategy. (These include the Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Option Core Strategy, the Braintree Town Centre Study, the Habitats Regulation Assessment, The Affordable Housing and Developer Contributions Study, the Regional Gypsy policy, the Gypsy and Traveller Assessment, the draft SHLAA and the Transport Assessment Stage Two.)

## 2. Proposed Submission Draft

2.1 A revision to Government Guidance in Planning Policy Statement 12 now gives Council's a choice: The Core Strategy can define site specific boundaries of strategic sites, or can indicate broad outlines of these areas. Proposed site specific boundaries have been included in this draft, as this will allow the Council to define growth location boundaries with certainty, which will make the proposals clearer when the Submission Draft is published for consultation and will define the specific boundaries for future Master Plans of these areas.

2.2 This report sets out the amended Core Strategy document.

2.3 Members are requested to approve the Submission Document for pre-Submission Consultation. Subject to the Council's approval of this draft, it will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and Equality Impact Assessment and will be sent to key partners for final comments. These will be reported to the LDF Panel on 14<sup>th</sup> April for final changes prior to pre- Submission Consultation from the end of April for a six week period.

Following any changes to the Core Strategy arising out of the Pre- Submission consultation, it will be submitted to the Government for consideration by an independent Planning Inspector who will conduct a public examination of the Strategy and decide whether the Strategy is sound, or should be amended, or is unsound.

<b>Corporate Implications</b>				
<b>Financial:</b>	Costs of Examination to be funded primarily by Housing and Planning Delivery Grant			
<b>Legal:</b>	LDF Planning Policy Guidance			
<b>Equalities &amp; Diversity:</b>	Covered by Equalities Impact Assessment			
<b>Customer Impact:</b>	Public consultation will be held on draft strategy			
<b>Environment &amp; Climate Change:</b>	As set out in Core Strategy			
<b>Consultation/Community Engagement:</b>	Submission Core Strategy will be published for consultation		Partners	✓
	Public	✓	Staff	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes			
<b>Public/Private Report:</b>	Public			
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