

East of England Plan > 2031 – Consultation on Scenarios for Housing and Economic Growth

Portfolio Area: Enterprise and Culture
Report Presented by: Cllr. Nigel Harley

Background Papers: EERA Consultation Document - September 2009
Corporate Implications: Please refer to table at end of report
Options:

1. To agree the process for responding to EERA on the Consultation Document
2. To agree an alternative process for responding to EERA on the Consultation Document

Risks: There is a need to ensure that the Council sends a response by 5pm on the 24th November 2009 otherwise there is a risk that this Council's comments will not be taken into account in the preparation of the review of the East of England Plan

Executive Summary

EERA is currently preparing a review of the East of England Plan to extend the plan period to 2031. On September 2nd EERA published a consultation document on Scenarios for housing and economic growth to 2031. The consultation period closes at 5pm on Tuesday 24th November 2009. The Plan will provide the regional context for the growth of the District for the next 20 years and it is important that the Council influences the Plan to reflect our own aspirations. In order to respond within the required timescale and to give all members an opportunity to be involved the following process for agreeing a response is suggested:

- Seminar for all members - Tuesday 27th October 2009
- LDF Panel - Wednesday 18th November 2009 - to agree BDC response to be submitted
- Council - Monday 14th December 2009 – to endorse LDF Panel response

Decision

To authorise the LDF Panel to agree the Council's response to EERA on East of England > 2031 Scenarios for housing and economic growth, subject to any changes made by Council in December.

East of England Plan > 2031 – Consultation on Scenarios for Housing and Economic Growth

1. EERA is currently carrying out a review of the East of England Plan and has published a consultation document on scenarios for housing and economic growth. The consultation period runs from 2nd September to 5pm on the 24th November 2009. The review of the Plan will provide the context for the growth of the District for the next 20 years and it is important that this Council takes the opportunity to make its position clear. There is a need to agree the process for agreeing a response that gives the opportunity for all members to be involved within the constraints of EERA's timescales.

2. The consultation sets out 4 scenarios for growth of the region based on different assumptions. For Braintree District the levels of housing growth under the different scenarios range from 330 dwellings per year to 950 per year. The consultation document can be viewed on the EERA website at www.eera.gov.uk

3. In order to give all members an opportunity to be involved in the discussion a seminar is being arranged for Tuesday 27th October. A representative from EERA is being invited to attend. Following the seminar and in order to be able to respond within EERA's timescale, it is suggested that authority be given to the LDF Panel to agree the Council's response at a meeting on 18th November 2009. Whilst it will not be possible for this response to be endorsed by Council until 14th December 2009 EERA has indicated that provided a response is made by their deadline they can accept the formally agreed response after that deadline providing any changes to it are clearly indicated.

Corporate Implications				
Financial:	Costs of responding to consultation will be met from existing budgets			
Legal:	No legal implications			
Equalities & Diversity:	Will affect all residents in District.			
Customer Impact:	Will affect all residents and businesses in District			
Environment & Climate Change:	Review of Plan will be subject to a strategic environmental assessment which will assess its impact on climate change			
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Local Committees		Partners	Business Council
	Public		Staff	
Key Decision:	No			
Public/Private Report:	Public			
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