

Progress Report on the Preparation of the Core Strategy		Agenda No: 6
Corporate Priority: Environment is clean and green, business is encouraged and local economy prospers, housing and transport meet local needs, healthy lifestyles		
Report presented by: Eleanor Dash		
Report prepared by: Eleanor Dash		
Background Papers: Braintree District Core Strategy Submission Draft May 2010 Addendum of Focused Changes to Core Strategy October 2010		Public Report
Options: Members approve the programme for the submission and adoption of the Core Strategy. Members request additional work, or changes to the proposed submission programme.		Key Decision: NO
Executive Summary: This report sets out the current programme for submission and adoption of the Core Strategy, which Members are requested to approve.		
Decision: To approve the programme for the submission and adoption of the Core Strategy, which will be subject to confirmation by the Planning Inspector.		
Purpose of Decision: To update Members of the LDF Panel on the timetable for adoption of the Core Strategy.		
Corporate implications		
Financial:	The Core Strategy will be examined by a Planning Inspector; the Council are required to pay the Inspector's costs together with the cost of the Programme Officer (who works for the Inspector) and hire of premises for the examination and for a note taker for the Inspector if required. There may also be costs of consultants appearing as witnesses on behalf of the Council, if needed. Plus document printing costs.	

Legal:	The Core Strategy is a statutory document setting out planning policy for the District up to 2026.
Equalities/Diversity	An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken, which forms part of the evidence base of the Core Strategy.
Customer Impact:	Core Strategy policies and proposals will impact upon customers.
Environment and Climate Change:	Core Strategy policies and proposals seek to reduce the impact of future development on the environment and climate change.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Public consultation on the Submission Draft Core Strategy between 10.5.10 – 8.7.10 and on the Focused Changes between 6.10.10 – 19.11.10.
Risks:	That the Core Strategy adoption programme could be delayed by the need for additional evidence or changes or that it might not be found sound by a Planning Inspector.
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1. Background

1.1 The Core Strategy Strategy Submission Draft was published in May 2010. There was public consultation between 10.5.10 to 8.7.10. Representations were reported to the LDF Panel on 22.9.10 and Members recommended focused and minor changes to the Core Strategy, in response to these representations. The focused and minor changes were approved by Council on 27th September 2010. The focused changes were published for public consultation between 8.10.10 to 19.11.10. A report on this agenda sets out responses that have been received concerning these focused changes.

2. Proposed Programme for the Adoption of the Core Strategy

2.1 The proposed programme for the Core Strategy is as follows:-
Submission to the Secretary of State: Week beginning 3rd January 2011
Pre Hearing Meeting: Week beginning 14th February 2011
Hearing (up to 2 weeks): Week beginning 14th April 2011
Inspector's Report received: Mid July 2011
Adoption: September 2011

2.2 This programme is based upon guidance from the Planning Inspectorate on the period of time that should be allowed between each stage of the examination of soundness and adoption process.

2.3 The Council needs to receive confirmation from the Regional Planning Body that the Core Strategy is in conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy. This confirmation was requested when the Core Strategy Submission Draft was published in May 2010. As this confirmation has not been received, due to the changes in status of the Regional Spatial Strategy, this will be requested again.

2.4 The submission of the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State should be accompanied by any supporting documents, which includes all of the evidence base. The submission is therefore proposed for the first week of January in order that the Stage 2 Water Cycle Study can be included within the evidence base.

2.5 It is advisable for Council's to resolve to give planning officers authority to submit the approved Core Strategy and any approved changes and there is a recommendation to that effect in the report on the responses to the focused changes on this agenda.

3. Monitoring the Core Strategy Programme

3.1 The Core Strategy programme is published on the Council's website for the information of persons who have made representations about the Core Strategy and the general public.

3.2 Progress on development plan documents, including the Core Strategy, is also monitored through the Annual Monitoring Report that is available on the website and submitted to the Government each December.

3.3 The Core Strategy programme is a Key Council project, which is monitored on Covalent.