

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND REFERENCES Witham Local Committee 14th September 2010 Draft Core Strategy	Agenda No: 5
Portfolio Area: Cllr Nigel Harley – Enterprise and Culture Report presented by: Eleanor Dash, Planning Policy Manager	
Background Papers:	Public Report
Options: For the information of the Panel.	Key Decision: NO
Draft Minute Extract: <p><u>DRAFT CORE STRATEGY</u></p> <p>INFORMATION: Councillor Foster left the meeting for this item and Councillor Dr Evans took the Chair.</p> <p>Members had received copies of the reports on the representations received on the Draft Core Strategy, and on the implications of the abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy presented to the Local Development Framework Panel (LDF Panel) at its meeting on 4th August 2010 along with the relevant minutes extract from the meeting.</p> <p>Members noted that the Government had announced plans to abolish the Regional Spatial Strategy and that the approach now being proposed by Government intended to give greater control at a local level on decisions on future housing development.</p> <p>Members noted that several objections had been raised by residents to proposals in the Draft Core Strategy to develop housing off Forest Road, Witham. Councillor Abbott moved a motion to recommend to Council that this proposed development be removed from the Draft Core Strategy. This was seconded by Councillor Hughes.</p> <p>Town Councillor Mrs Lee, Witham Town Council, joined the meeting to state that Town Council supported the proposed recommendation to the LDF Panel and Council and asked that an amendment be made to insert a reconsideration of the proposed housing development at Lodge Farm, Witham, also in the Draft Core Strategy. Councillor Miss Barlow moved an amendment to the motion to recommend to Council that the proposed housing development at Lodge Farm, Witham, be reconsidered and that that alternative locations be considered. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Money.</p>	

In discussing the amendment, some Members were of the view that it would be premature to make a recommendation to Council and to inform the LDF Panel, whilst others were of the view that alternative locations for the housing should be considered.

On being put to the vote, the amended motion was declared CARRIED.

DECISION:

That it be **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL (AND TO INFORM THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PANEL):**

- (1) That following the Government's statement that it will "rapidly abolish Regional Strategies" (letter from the Secretary of State to the Council 27th May 2010) and in the light of the new commitment from the Government that local communities should be at the heart of planning decision making, that the Council removes the "Growth Location" of 300 houses on land off Forest Road/Rectory Lane in the Parish of Rivenhall as set out in the Draft Core Strategy."
- (2) That proposals for Lodge Farm, Witham, be re-considered.
- (3) That alternative sites be considered as already submitted to the Council through the Local Development Framework process.

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