

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 28 NOVEMBER 2012  
EXECUTIVE – 4 DECEMBER 2012

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING  
AND TRANSPORT

DISTRICT PLAN: EVIDENCE BASE – TECHNICAL STUDIES 2011/12,  
2012/13 AND 2013/14

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To update the Panel on progress in respect of completed and ongoing District Plan evidence base related technical studies from 2011/12 and note or seek agreement to those underway or proposed to be undertaken during 2012/13 and 2013/14.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE**  
**PANEL AND EXECUTIVE: that**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>it be noted, or as appropriate supported, that the technical studies listed in Essential Reference Paper ‘B’ to this report, which are due for completion, already underway or proposed to be undertaken during 2012/13, contribute to the District Plan Evidence Base; and</b>
<b>(B)</b>	<b>the technical studies referred in (A) above be completed or undertaken by means of:</b>  <b>(i) seeking competitive quotes or tenders, as appropriate, to engage consultants, with the costs being met from the 2012/13 or 2013/14 Planning Policy related budgets for such purposes; and/or</b>  <b>(ii) partnership working where appropriate, with neighbouring authorities and other relevant partners.</b>

(C)	the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport, be given authority to approve funding, within the limits of the 2012/13 and 2013/14 Planning Policy budgets, for such other relevant planning policy studies, as may be deemed appropriate.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL: that</b>	
(A)	it be noted, or as appropriate agreed, that the technical studies listed in Essential Reference Paper 'B' to this report, which are due for completion, already underway or proposed to be undertaken during 2012/13, contribute to the District Plan Evidence Base; and
(B)	<p>the technical studies referred in (A) above be completed or undertaken by means of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) seeking competitive quotes or tenders, as appropriate, to engage consultants, with the costs being met from the 2012/13 or 2013/14 Planning Policy related budgets for such purposes; and/or</li> <li>(ii) partnership working where appropriate, with neighbouring authorities and other relevant partners.</li> </ul>
(C)	the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport, be given authority to approve funding, within the limits of the 2012/13 and 2013/14 Planning Policy budgets, for such other relevant planning policy studies, as may be deemed appropriate.

## 1.0 Background

1.1 One of the keys aims of the planning system is that Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's), should be founded on a robust and credible evidence base.

1.2 The evidence base should consist of a number of background or technical studies/assessments that can then be used to both inform and justify plan policies. The studies should aim to run for the life of the plan and be subject to review where they fall short of the time period.

## 2.0 Report

### 2.1 **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** to this report sets out:

- Studies Completed 2011/12
- Studies Completed so far 2012/13
- Studies On-going/Started 2011/12 and 2012/13
- Studies Proposed for 2013/14
- Summary Financial Table 2011/12 and 2012/13

2.2 As the year progresses there may be other relevant planning policy studies which may be deemed appropriate to undertake. It is considered that within the limits of the 2012/13 and 2013/14 Planning Policy budgets, the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Transport, be given authority to approve the funding for such studies.

## 3.0 Implications/Consultation

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

## Background Papers

None.

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