

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EXECUTIVE PANEL –
24 NOVEMBER 2011

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING POLICY
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
EVIDENCE BASE – TECHNICAL STUDIES 2010/11 AND 2011/12

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To update the Panel on progress in respect of completed and ongoing Local Development Framework (LDF) evidence base related technical studies from 2010/11 and note or seek agreement to those underway or proposed to be undertaken during 2011/12.

RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE : that	
(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 2011/12, contribute to the Local Development Framework Evidence Base; and
(B)	the technical studies referred in (A) above be completed or undertaken by means of: (i) seeking competitive quotes or tenders, as appropriate, to engage consultants, with the costs being met from the 2011/12 Planning Policy / Local Development Framework budgets for such purposes; and/or (ii) partnership working where appropriate, with neighbouring authorities and other relevant partners.

(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 2011/12 Planning Policy/Local Development Framework budgets, for such other relevant planning policy studies, as may be deemed appropriate.
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1.0 Background

- 1.1 One of the keys aims of the planning system is that Local Development Documents (LDD's) i.e. Development Plan Documents (DPD's) 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 2010/11
- Studies Completed so far 2011/12
- Studies On-going/Started 2010/11/Proposed for 2011
- Summary Financial Table 2010/11 and 2011/12

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 2011/12 Planning Policy/LDF budgets, the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Policy 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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Planning Policy and Economic Development

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe – Head of Planning and Building
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Report Author: Bryan Thomsett – Planning Policy Manager

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives (delete as appropriate):</p>	<p>Pride in East Herts <i>Improve standards of the built neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages.</i></p> <p>Shaping now, shaping the future <i>Safeguard and enhance our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures.</i></p> <p>Leading the way, working together <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>Consultation on the preparation of this report has taken place with the Executive Member and other relevant East Herts Council Officers.</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>Not having appropriate technical studies, as part of the LDF evidence base, may mean that DPD's will be found to be unsound and the Council will have failed in its statutory requirement to produce and deliver a Development Plan for East Herts District, that has a sound evidence base.</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>It is currently anticipated that those technical studies proposed to be externally prepared by consultants during 2011/12, where an East Herts Council financial contribution is anticipated, will be funded from agreed 2011/12 Planning Policy/LDF budgets for such purposes. Should there be funding issues, a further report will be prepared to consider ways of addressing this.</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>Existing Planning Policy staff resources will be required to commission and project manage the various technical studies.</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>Not having appropriate technical studies as part of the LDF evidence base, may mean that DPD's will be found to be unsound and the Council will have failed in its statutory requirement to produce and deliver a Development Plan for East Herts District, that has a sound evidence base.</p>