

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EXECUTIVE PANEL  
7 JULY 2011

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING POLICY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EAST HERTS CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED OPTIONS -  
PROJECT PLAN AND METHODOLOGY STATEMENT

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To seek agreement to the attached Core Strategy Preferred Options Project Plan and Methodology Statement, which sets out how the Council will reach an initial view on the broad locations for development in the district to 2031;
- To set out the Work Programme for this stage in the project, culminating in public consultation in Spring 2012.

**RECOMMENDATION TO EXECUTIVE: to commend to Council that:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>the East Herts Core Strategy Preferred Options Project Plan and Methodology Statement, together with accompanying Work Programme, contained at Essential Reference Papers 'B' and 'C' to this report, be agreed.</b>
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**1.0 Background**

- 1.1 With the completion of the Issues and Options stage in preparation of the Core Strategy, the Council now turns to the next stage in preparation of the Core Strategy, namely, the Preferred Options.
- 1.2 The Preferred Options stage will be the first time that the District Council sets out for consultation its emerging views on a suitable development strategy for the District to 2031. In other words, the Preferred Options will set out in broad terms, where development should be located, together with a strategy for delivery of that development.

## **2.0 Report**

- 2.1 **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** consists of a Project Plan and Methodology Statement for the Core Strategy Preferred Options. The document explains the steps that the Council needs to take in order to achieve this key milestone.
- 2.2 **Essential Reference Paper 'C'** consists of the Core Strategy Work Programme, showing tasks leading to anticipated consultation on the Preferred Options in spring 2012. ERP 'C' should be read alongside Sections 3 and 4 of the Project Plan.
- 2.3 Section 2 of the document provides an overview of the context for preparation of the Core Strategy Preferred Options. It sets out how the preparation of the Core Strategy Preferred Options will respond to changes in the national policy context (as far as we can be sure at the present time) including proposals relating to the delivery of development. It also explains the role and function of the Core Strategy and also how the Preferred Options stage relates to other stages in preparation of the Core Strategy. Finally, it sets out the justification and rationale for strategic planning at the District level.
- 2.4 Section 3 explains the procedure for selection of the Preferred Option. It explains the basis on which the difficult decisions in respect of the broad development locations will be made. It sets out the various inputs to the decision making process, and explains the procedure by which these inputs will be considered. The aim of this section is to enable stakeholders to see how their views will be considered and understand how the Council will reach its decision.
- 2.5 Section 4 of the document sets out a work programme for preparation of the Preferred Options consultation document, as far as we can be certain at the present time. Given that the detail of the new national planning system remains to be finalised, this may be subject to change.
- 2.6 Finally, section 5 of the document sets out the procedure for handling responses to the Preferred Options consultation.

## **3.0 Implications/Consultations**

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

## Essential Reference Papers

'A' – Corporate Issues and Consultation

'B' – Core Strategy Preferred Options Project Plan and Methodology Statement

'C' – Core Strategy Work Programme

## Background Papers

None

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ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives (delete as appropriate):</p>	<p><b>Pride in East Herts</b>  <i>Improve standards of the built neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages.</i></p> <p><b>Shaping now, shaping the future</b>  <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><b>Leading the way, working together</b>  <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>Failure to progress with the Core Strategy as set out in the Project Plan could lead to a presumption in favour of sustainable development in East Herts, in line with government proposals under the Localism Bill. This would severely limit the ability of local residents and others to shape the future of the district.</p>