

Luton & South Bedfordshire Joint Committee

23 October 2009

Agenda Item No. 6

AUTHOR	Joint Officer Team (David Atkinson, Joint Technical Unit)
SUBJECT	Emerging Core Strategy: Schedule of responses received on the recent 'Preferred Options' public consultation.
PURPOSES	To enable the Joint Committee Members to consider the responses received and Officers suggested responses and actions relating to them.
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the Committee approve the suggested responses and the actions proposed relating to representations received.
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS	To enable the Joint Committee to approve the suggested responses and related actions as part of its role in the ongoing formulation of the emerging Core Strategy.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The recent public consultation undertaken on the 'Preferred Options' version of the emerging Core Strategy was successful in generating a healthy number of representations from a variety of respondents being received. Some respondents made multiple responses on different elements of the emerging Core Strategy, whereas others made just one.
- 1.2 The schedule circulated separately to the agenda sets out each response received including those representations that take the form of petitions and other forms of responses that include contributions from multiple respondents. Each of these forms of response is regarded as an individual record in the attached schedule. In total there are 3,962 individual comments listed in the attached schedules. There are twelve elements to the schedules, one relating to each of the substantive chapters of the 'Preferred Options' document. The schedule also, as far as possible, relates to the nineteen online questions posed on the 'Preferred Options' document that set out to help guide respondents (the specific questions are not referred to in the appended schedules). The twelve substantive 'Preferred Options' sections, together with their associated guidance questions are:

1. **Introduction**
2. **Spatial Portrait**
3. **Vision and Objectives**
 - *Associated guiding questions: Do you support the Spatial Vision for Luton and South Bedfordshire;*
 - *Do you support the Strategic Objectives for Luton and southern Bedfordshire*
4. **Spatial Strategy and Key Diagram**
 - *Associated guiding questions: Do you support the Spatial Development Principles?*
 - *Do you support the Spatial Development Strategy and Key Diagram? (*NB Two Questions covering the same ground were also asked in the 'Core Strategy: Preferred Options Summary Document')*
5. **Accessibility and Transport**
 - *Associated guiding questions: Do you support the proposals for strategic transport infrastructure?*
 - *Do you support the proposals for strategic highway transport infrastructure?*
 - *Do you support the proposals for maximising sustainable travel?*
6. **Providing new Homes**
 - *Associated guiding questions: Do you support the proposals for the proposed housing targets?*
 - *Do you support the delivery of a constant supply of housing land?*
 - *Do you support the provision of housing for all needs?*
7. **Our Economic and Employment Needs**
 - *Associated guiding question: Do you support the proposals for providing and supporting employment framework?*
8. **Building Communities**
 - *Associated guiding question: Do you support the proposals for providing social and community infrastructure in Luton and southern Bedfordshire?*
9. **Improving the Town Centres**
 - *Associated guiding question: Do you support proposals to improve town centres in Luton and southern Bedfordshire*
10. **Adapting to and Mitigating Climate Change**
 - *Associated guiding questions: Do you support the proposals for resource efficiency measures in Luton and southern Bedfordshire?*
 - *Do you support the proposals for flood mitigation measures in Luton and southern Bedfordshire?*

11. Green Infrastructure

- *Associated guiding question: Do you support proposals for green infrastructure and green space within Luton and southern Bedfordshire?*

12. Preserving and Enhancing our Countryside and Heritage

- *Associated guiding questions: Do you support proposals to protect, conserve and enhance countryside and heritage?*
- *Do you support the proposals concerning heritage and townscape in Luton and southern Bedfordshire?*
- *Do you support the proposals to protect and enhance biodiversity and geology within Luton and southern Bedfordshire?*

2. HOW TO READ AND USE THE APPENDED SCHEDULES

2.1 From the left hand side of the page the schedules set out:

- the comment's unique identification number;
- the name or organisation the response is submitted under (where known);
- a summary of the representation;
- the suggested response;
- the reason(s) for the suggested response; and
- details of any action recommended arising from the suggested response.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications as a consequence of the public consultation response. However, the manner in which they are used in progressing the Local Development Framework (LDF), in terms of spatial development allocations including sustainable strategic urban extensions, for example, could have financial implications for the delivery of the LDF. These implications were agreed by the Finance Manager (Environment and Regeneration) on 8 October 2009.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This is a non-statutory part of the plan-making process and there are no associated legal implications for the Joint Committee. These implications were agreed by John Secker, Legal Services Luton Borough Council on 8 October 2009.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The 'Preferred Options' Core Strategy has been subjected to an Equalities Impact Assessment to identify the contribution its contents can make towards achieving acknowledged equalities objectives across Luton and southern Bedfordshire.

APPENDIX

Appendix – Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy and Key Diagram: Preferred Options Public Consultation; Schedule of Responses, Suggested Joint Committee Response, Reason for Response and any Proposed Action.

This Appendix has been circulated to Members, Substitute Members, Co-optees and key Officers due to the size of the document. If you require a copy of this document it can be found at:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/ieListDocuments.asp?CId=636&MId=3135&Ver=4>

or contact Sandra Hobbs on 0300 300 5257 or sandra.hobbs@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk