

Meeting: Executive
Date: 10 November 2009
Subject: LDF (North): Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document

Response of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 1.1 At its meeting on 27 October 2009 the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD). Members were advised that Public Examination of the document had taken place in June and July 2009 following a period of public consultation and that the Inspector had determined the DPD to be 'sound'. The Committee noted that the Council could only agree to accept the DPD as it now stood, including the Inspector's changes, or reject it altogether and begin the process from the beginning. It was not possible to introduce further amendments.
- 1.2 The meeting noted that the biggest change by the Inspector had been his rejection of the Council's proposal for an extension to the Green Belt to the south-east of Milton Keynes which had arisen as a result of concerns relating to the city's expansion and the impact on nearby villages. The Inspector had felt that this was a strategic rather than local issue and should be dealt with in the Council's response to the review of the East of England Plan.
- 1.3 Despite this disappointment the Committee unanimously recognised that the DPD's benefits outweighed any disadvantages to Central Bedfordshire Council. The document provided guidance and an overall strategy for development and, by doing so, substantially reduced the opportunity for speculative planning applications and costly and time consuming appeals. It was also commented that officers should be congratulated for achieving a 'sound' Core Strategy which had only been achieved by around 20% of councils in England.

RESOLVED that the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document.

RECOMMENDED to the Executive

That the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document be adopted.