

**Luton & South Bedfordshire Joint Committee**

**22 October 2010**

**Agenda Item No. 6**

<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Lachlan Robertson: Interim Head of the Joint Technical Unit</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>The Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy</b>
<b>PURPOSES</b>	<b>To consider the Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy for Publication, Invitation to Submit Representations and Submission under Regulations 27, 28 and 30 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2008.</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>1. To approve the Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy for Publication, Invitation to Submit Representations and Submission under Regulations 27, 28 and 30 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2008.</b> <b>2. To approve the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal for Submission purposes.</b>
<b>REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>To progress the Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy towards Examination and with the aim for Adoption by end year 2011.</b>

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Joint Committee considered and approved the form and content of the draft Core Strategy on 23 July 2010. It was resolved that the document would be prepared for publication and then final approval sought at this meeting.

## 2. THE COMPLETED CORE STRATEGY

2.1 The final version of the Core Strategy attached in Appendix A includes a number of alterations to ensure that it is as up-to-date as possible. In summary, the document includes the following alterations to this end:

1. The background information chapter has been moved into an appendix for ease of reading the document.
2. Where recent Government announcements (e.g. The BSF Schools programme) have impacted on the text, the text has been amended.
3. The Infrastructure Schedule has been replaced with an updated version based on research undertaken by external consultants in August and September; commissioned by Luton Gateway for that purpose.
4. Some adjustment to Policy CS1 has been made to better reflect the impact of the loss of the Regional Spatial Strategy policy for the Luton and South Bedfordshire area.
5. Minor factual errors have been corrected and unnecessary duplications removed.
6. Staff within the two constituent authorities and external bodies who have specific interests in the Core Strategy SSSAs have suggested alterations to the supporting text to improve the sense and justification for schemes within the document.
7. The Key Diagram has been amended in the light of representations made at the last Joint Committee meeting by representatives of North Hertfordshire District Council.
8. An amended Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared and is attached in Appendix C.

2.2 The document is now ready for publication.

## 3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 A Project Plan has been prepared towards the adoption of the Plan. The main landmarks along the way are as follows:

- Stage 1: **Publication** of the Core Strategy: End of November 2010.
- Stage 2: **Receipt of Representations** on the Plan under Regulation 28. For seven weeks from Publication until mid-January 2011.
- Stage 3: Collation of Representations and **Submission** under Regulation 30: Beginning of March 2011.
- Stage 4: **Examination**: For about 3 to 4 weeks at end June/July 2011.

Stage 5 Receipt of the **Inspector's Report**: Autumn 2011.

Stage 6 **Adoption** by the L&SB Joint Committee: End 2011.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no additional financial implications related to the progressing of the Core Strategy. Provisions have been made within the Local Development Framework (LDF) core budget for printing, receipt of representations, Examination and other associated costs.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The progress of the Core Strategy is set by the provisions within the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and by the Regulations under which the Luton and South Bedfordshire Joint Committee itself operates.

#### **6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The wider LDF has been assessed by a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report that considers equalities issues. This scoping report and associated equalities content has been taken forward to produce a Sustainability Appraisal for the submission Core Strategy.
- 6.2 A separate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was also conducted on the Core Strategy Preferred Options. The draft submission Core Strategy was prepared in-line with the preferred options and the recommendations of the associated EqIA.

#### **Appendices (Please see separate document)**

- A. Luton & southern Central Bedfordshire Core Strategy – Draft Submission Version, October 2010
- B. Luton & southern Central Bedfordshire Core Strategy – Amendments Schedule
- C. Luton & southern Central Bedfordshire Core Strategy – Sustainability Appraisal Report

#### **Background Documents**

- 1. Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning
- 2. The L&SB Infrastructure Schedule Report: September 2010; AECOM