

## **COUNCIL MEETING – 29 NOVEMBER 2012**

### **Recommendation to Council from the Executive meeting held on 6 November 2012**

E/12/67

#### **Development Strategy for Central Bedfordshire**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development that presented the draft Pre-Submission version of the Development Strategy. The Development Strategy was an overarching planning policy document that set out the overall approach to new development in Central Bedfordshire for the period to 2031, including new homes, jobs and infrastructure and detailed policies to guide decisions on planning applications.

Members noted the comments from the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Nicols' comments and the response to these comments from the Executive Member.

The Executive Member moved revised recommendations, which was duly seconded:-

- “1. That the draft Pre-Submission Development Strategy, attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved for the purposes of Publication and Submission to the Secretary of State.
2. To delegate authority to the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development, to make any minor amendments to the Development Strategy, including any saved policies from the adopted North Core Strategy:
  - (i) prior to Publication;
  - (ii) after Publication but before Submission; and
  - (iii) during the Examination Process.”

The Executive Member responded to questions from Non-Executive and Executive Members about the M1-A6 link road, the density of the housing, the requirement for 30% of all qualifying sites to provide affordable housing and the need to provide appropriate accommodation for older people. A Task Force was currently compiling the Housing Strategy and once this document had been approved it would become a supplementary planning document.

Reason for decision: To enable progress on the draft Development Strategy prior to its formal submission to the Secretary of State in May 2013 and during the Examination period.

**RECOMMENDED to Council**

- 1. that the draft Pre-Submission Development Strategy, attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved for the purposes of Publication and Submission to the Secretary of State; and**
- 2. to delegate authority to the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development, to make any minor amendments to the Development Strategy, including any saved policies from the adopted North Core Strategy:
  - (i) prior to Publication;**
  - (ii) after Publication but before Submission; and**
  - (iii) during the Examination Process.****