

Meeting: Haringey Strategic Partnership

Date: 4 November 2008

Report Title: Core Strategy Update

Report of: Ransford Stewart, Assistant Director for Planning Policy Development

Purpose

To provide an update on the progress in preparing Haringey Council's Core Strategy and the future programme for taking the Core Strategy forward to adoption.

Summary

The Core Strategy, when adopted, will be the Development Plan Document for London Borough of Haringey replacing the Unitary Development Plan adopted by the Council in June 2006. It will set out a spatial vision and objectives for the borough up to 2020 and will contain key policies, implementation programme and investment framework to deliver the vision. The report provides an update on the progress in preparing the Core Strategy and a programme for taking the taking the document forward to adoption in the light of the changes to the plan making process as set out in new Government Guidance Planning Policy Statement 12 'Local Spatial Planning'.

Legal/Financial Implications

This report is by way of an up date in the light of the revised regulations and has no specific implications at this stage.

Recommendations

That the Board note the update on the outcome of the consultation on the Issues and Options paper and the next stages of the Core Strategy.

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Background

- 1.1 A presentation on the Core Strategy, its key principles and stages were reported to the Haringey Strategic Partnership in February 2008 together with the consultation notice on the Issues and Options report.
- 1.2 The Core Strategy, when adopted, will be the main development plan document for Haringey. It will set out a spatial vision and objectives for the borough up to 2020 and will contain key policies, implementation programme and investment framework to deliver the vision. Core Strategy is a strategic document and seeks to coordinate and deliver other strategies, plans and programmes, based on the concept of spatial planning.
- 1.3 Issues and Options report represented the first stage of the Core Strategy and following Cabinet approval in December 2007, public consultation took place during February and March 2008. This document contained key issues and options and possible solutions to the challenges facing Haringey.

2. Update

- 2.1 For the Issues and Options consultation there was a mail-outs to the stakeholder, the local community and business groups, and public meetings were organised to gauge stakeholders and community interest and views. In addition, there were two focus groups; one for black and ethnic minority groups and the other for people who are not normally engaged with the planning process. Views were also sought from statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency and English Nature, the Government Office for London, the Greater London Authority, strategic partners, and neighbouring boroughs.
- 2.2 We received comments from over 40 people and groups, mostly by external organisations and individuals. (Together with focus groups the figure is near 70). Between them they posted over 1200. The comments have been analysed and response have been prepared The Document setting the analysis of the public consultation can be viewed at Council's planning policy consultation portal.
- 2.3 The timetable for the Core Strategy has been revised to take account of the current developments in national and regional guidance on wider climate and environment issues and resources that were needed to analyse the large number of comments received to the Issues and Options consultation..
- 2.4 Furthermore, the Government have been reviewing the procedures for spatial plan-making, and the published new guidance these including changes to the Core Strategy. In the revised system the "preferred options" stage has been removed to simplify the statutory 3-stage consultation and the Council now have more flexibility to tailor their consultation according to their circumstances and requirements. We have opted to produce a "preferred options" document for an informal consultation with the statutory bodies, stakeholders and public before proceeding to a final draft of Core Strategy.

Next Stage

- 3.1 We are now working towards producing a document which considers four strategic policy and spatial options for the future planning and development of the Borough. The Document will set out the Council's preferred strategic policy and spatial option as well as details of the others options which have also been considered. This process is aided by the feedback we received as part of the initial consultation.
- 3.2 We are also carrying out further studies and research into a number of policy areas such as employment land and retail capacity to provide an evidence base for the Options and support our preferred Option. The document will be subject to a sustainability appraisal to assess the impact of the options. We are aiming to publish the "Preferred Options" document for consultation in January-February 2009.
- 3.3 The revised time table for adopting the Core Strategy, following Examination in Public and the Final Report of the Planning Inspector, is summer 2010.