

**Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date: 2 April 2013**

**Title: Core Strategy Sub-group: Interim Report**

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**Service:** Law and Governance

**Directorate:** Chief Executives

**Wards affected:** All

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

The report requests that an interim recommendation be submitted to Cabinet on the basis of the work undertaken so far by the Core Strategy Sub-group.

### **2. Recommendations**

That the following recommendations be submitted to Cabinet:

- that the timescale for the publication and public engagement on the Consultation Draft version of the Core Strategy, which was scheduled to begin in July 2013, be delayed by up to 3 months. This will allow information from a number of imminent reviews/assessments to be available and taken into account in advance of the consultation.
- that publication of the Area Action Plans be delayed until the overarching core strategy is further developed.

### **3. Details**

The Core Strategy Sub-group was established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the Core Strategy and report findings back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Sub-group has met on two occasions and has reviewed information in relation to the themes of Housing and Population, and Employment Land.

The Sub-group has noted that work is about to commence on a number of assessments/reviews which will provide updated evidence for the Core Strategy. These reviews include:

- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
- Employment Land Study
- Viability Assessment
- Infrastructure Development Plan

It is envisaged that much of this information will be available by June 2013. The Sub-group is therefore of the view that the next stage of public consultation on the Core Strategy should be delayed by up to 3 months to allow the consultation document to be based on the most up to date information available.

This would have the following implications for the overall Core Strategy timetable:

Stage	Present LDS	Potential revision
1. Completion of technical studies		Jul 2013
2. Completion of Consultation Draft		Aug 2013
3. Cabinet approval of Consultation Draft	Jun 2013	Sep 2013
4. Publication and public engagement on Consultation Draft	Jul 2013	Oct 2013
5. Cabinet/Council consideration of Publication Draft	Dec 2013 to Jun 2014	Mar 2014 to Sep 2014
6. Publication and formal public engagement	Sep 2014	Nov 2014
7. Submission to Secretary of State	Dec 2014	Feb 2015
8. Examination in Public	Mar 2015	May 2015
9. Adoption by Cabinet	Sep 2015	Nov 2015

The Study Group was also of the view that the Area Action Plans need to be considered in the context of the overall Core Strategy, and therefore that publication of the Area Action Plans should be postponed until the Core Strategy is further developed.

#### **4. Background Information**

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.

Core Strategy Sub-group papers: 21 March 2013, 28 March 2013