

Report to the Local Development Framework Cabinet Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference: **LDF-020-2010/11**

Date of meeting: **7 February 2011**

Portfolio: Leader

Subject: Local Development Framework - Community Visioning Results

Responsible Officer: Kate Hallé (01992 564481).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

(1) That the following key results, as set out in the LDF Community Visioning Results report, be included as part of the evidence base in the forthcoming preparation of the Core Planning Strategy:

- (a) **Priorities for the District over the next twenty years:**
To protect and enhance green spaces whilst encouraging the growth of local jobs and businesses;
- (b) **Most important planning issues facing local areas:**
Better protection for green spaces, reducing traffic congestion and providing more local job opportunities; and
- (c) **Favoured approaches to the location of new houses and jobs:**
To locate growth close to public transport links and around/within existing towns whilst considering a combination of options throughout the District where appropriate.

Executive Summary:

This report sets out the results of the LDF Community Visioning exercise that took place from November 2010 to January 2011. The aim of the exercise was to engage with the local communities in order to understand their views on:

- a. The priorities for the District over the next 20 years;
- b. The planning issues affecting the local area; and
- c. The approaches to growth that are most appropriate for the future.

A number of methods were used in order to publicise the consultation and provide the opportunity for the community to give the Council their views. These included:

- a. Information leaflet and questionnaire
- b. Community and stakeholder workshops
- c. Public information exhibitions
- d. Commuter postcards
- e. Planning our Future website
- f. Epping Forest DC Facebook page
- g. Photography competition

The key findings of the community visioning were as follows:

- a. Priorities for the District over the next twenty years:

To protect and enhance green spaces whilst encouraging the growth of local jobs and businesses

- b. Most important planning issues facing local areas:

Better protection for green spaces, reducing traffic congestion and providing more local job opportunities

- c. Favoured approaches to the location of new houses and jobs:

To locate growth close to public transport links and around/within existing towns whilst considering a combination of options throughout the District where appropriate.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To provide a formalised part of the evidence base to be used to develop the Core Planning Strategy Issues and Options report.

Other Options for Action:

To not approve the LDF Community Visioning Results report and be without an evidence base of community views for the Core Planning Strategy Issues and Options report.

Report:

1. The LDF Community Visioning exercise took place from 8 November 2010 to 7 January 2011. This report sets out a review of the feedback received from the local community through a number of different communication channels.

Community visioning questionnaire

Overview

2. A key element of the community visioning exercise was the development and distribution of a questionnaire using a number of different communication channels. The questionnaire asked for local views on the priorities for the District over the next 20 years, planning issues facing local communities and initial views on what approaches to growth would be most appropriate. To date 1,493 questionnaires have been returned and analysed. Of these 61% chose to provide details of their post code, allowing analysis by local area.

Information leaflet

3. An eight page leaflet providing information on the Core Planning Strategy and how the local community could get involved was distributed to every household in the District. There were sporadic complaints from residents who stated that they had not received a leaflet. As a response to this the LDF team sent out additional leaflets as requested, and met with the leaflet distribution company and were provided with satellite tracking reports of the delivery routes undertaken. As a result the LDF team are satisfied that the distribution was as widespread as possible.

4. The leaflet contained a detachable version of the questionnaire that could be returned using the freepost address envelope provided. A prize incentive of a meal for four at a local restaurant was used to encourage people to participate. To date 1,348 questionnaires were returned via the leaflet – a response rate of approximately 2.5%.

Online

5. The questionnaire was made available online via the ‘Planning Our Future’ page on the EFDC website. To date 44 responses have been received via the website and entered into the main prize draw.

Postcards

6. Commuters were identified as a hard-to-reach group who may not have time to view and respond to the questionnaire in the leaflet. The questionnaire was produced on the back of a postcard which people could return freepost.

7. 500 postcards were distributed at both Epping and Loughton underground stations during the morning and evening rush hour on 10th and 12th November, respectively. A prize incentive of a meal for two at a local restaurant was used to encourage people to participate. To date 34 responses were received via the postcards, a response rate of approximately 3.4%.

The Forester Magazine

8. The community visioning exercise occupied a two page spread in the December issue of the EFDC Forester magazine. This included the questionnaire which could be removed from the magazine and returned freepost. 67 responses have been received via the Forester Magazine to date.

Results - District Priorities

9. Respondents to the questionnaire were asked to identify a maximum of two priorities facing the District over the next 20 years from the following list:

- (a) Encouraging the growth of local jobs and businesses;
- (b) Protecting and enhancing green spaces;
- (c) Providing housing to meet local need;
- (d) Provision of facilities for the community; and
- (e) Reducing the impacts of climate change.

10. The opportunity to identify another priority not on the list was provided and 7% of respondents chose to do so. The answers received were wide ranging but focused mostly on the provision of services such as healthcare and schools and creating a safe and secure environment.

What did the District community say? – Table 1

Local jobs	Green spaces	Providing housing	Community facilities	Climate change
26.4%	33.6%	11.5%	17.8%	10.7%

What did local communities say? – Table 2

11. Where respondents provided their post code it was possible to breakdown the questionnaire results by area as follows:

Post code area	Local jobs	Green spaces	Providing housing	Community facilities	Climate change
EN9 Waltham Abbey/ Nazeing	28.8%	28.3%	14.1%	20.4%	8.4%
CM16 Epping/ Theydon Bois	24.7%	36.0%	11.5%	16.9%	11.0%
IG10 Loughton	23.7%	36.1%	11.2%	17.0%	12.0%
IG7 Chigwell	24.2%	33.6%	5.4%	20.8%	16.1%
IG9 Buckhurst Hill	25.0%	33.3%	9.6%	19.9%	12.2%
CM5 Ongar	35.8%	31.2%	12.8%	12.8%	7.3%

Summary

12. The protection and enhancement of green spaces (33.6%) and the encouragement of the growth of local jobs and businesses (26.4%) were identified by the District community as being the main priorities for Epping Forest over the next 20 years.

13. Local communities also identified these as the most important issues, although there was some split between areas with EN9 Waltham Abbey/Nazeing and CM5 Ongar identifying the growth of local jobs and businesses as more important than the protection of green spaces.

14. The importance of encouraging local jobs and business was particularly important to respondents in CM5 Ongar (35.8%), compared to the District as a whole (26.4%).

15. The need for housing provision in the District was found to be strongest in EN9 Waltham Abbey/Nazeing (14.1%) and CM5 Ongar (12.8%), whereas respondents in IG7 Chigwell considered it to be significantly less of a priority (5.4%).

16. The protection and enhancement of green spaces was most important respondents in IG10 Loughton (36.1%) and CM16 Epping/Theydon Bois (36.0%).

Results - Planning issues for local areas

17. Respondents to the questionnaire were asked to identify a maximum of three planning issues that most need to be addressed in their local area. The following list of options was provided:

- (a) Better access to public transport;
- (b) Better protection for green spaces;
- (c) Improved community facilities;
- (d) More affordable housing;
- (e) More local job opportunities;
- (f) Provision of a greater variety of housing types;

- (g) Reduced traffic congestion; and
- (h) Right balance of shops and restaurants.

18. The opportunity to identify another issue not on the list was provided and 11% of respondents chose to do so. The most commonly received answers were related to car parking and traffic congestion throughout the District.

What did the District community say? – Table 3

Public transport	Green spaces	Community facilities	Affordable housing	Job opportunities	Housing types	Traffic congestion	Shops and restaurants
11.0%	21.5%	12.2%	7.2%	13.8%	7.0%	14.5%	12.8%

What did local communities say? – Table 4

19. Where respondents provided their post code it was possible to breakdown the questionnaire results by area as follows.

Post code area	Public transport	Green spaces	Community facilities	Affordable housing	Job opportunities	Housing types	Traffic congestion	Shops and restaurants
EN9 Waltham Abbey/ Nazeing	12.8%	18.9%	15.2%	6.3%	16.5%	6.3%	12.1%	12.0%
CM16 Epping/ Theydon Bois	9.3%	23.1%	12.5%	7.8%	11.3%	6.3%	15.1%	14.6%
IG10 Loughton	5.9%	23.8%	11.0%	6.8%	12.5%	5.9%	18.5%	15.7%
IG7 Chigwell	15.1%	22.0%	9.8%	6.3%	12.7%	6.8%	15.1%	12.2%
IG9 Buckhurst Hill	6.5%	19.4%	15.9%	8.0%	15.9%	5.0%	18.4%	10.9%
CM5 Ongar	18.1%	18.1%	7.6%	9.7%	18.8%	5.6%	9.0%	13.2%

20. The top-three issues by post code area were as follows:

- (a) **EN9 Waltham Abbey / Nazeing:**
 - Issue 1: Green spaces (18.9%);
 - Issue 2: Job opportunities (16.5%); and
 - Issue 3: Community facilities (15.2%).
- (b) **CM16 Epping / Theydon Bois:**
 - Issue 1: Green spaces (23.1%);
 - Issue 2: Traffic congestion (15.1%); and
 - Issue 3: Shops and restaurants (14.6%).
- (c) **IG10 Loughton:**
 - Issue 1: Green spaces (23.8%);
 - Issue 2: Traffic congestion (18.5%); and
 - Issue 3: Shops and restaurants (15.7%).

- (d) **IG7 Chigwell:**
- Issue 1: Green spaces (22.0%);
 - Issue 2: Traffic congestion (15.1%) and public transport (15.1%); and
 - Issue 3: Job opportunities (12.7%).
- (e) **IG9 Buckhurst Hill:**
- Issue 1: Green spaces (19.4%);
 - Issue 2: Traffic congestion (18.4%); and
 - Issue 3: Job opportunities (15.9%) and community facilities (15.9%).
- (f) **CM5 Ongar:**
- Issue 1: Job opportunities (18.8%);
 - Issue 2: Public transport (18.1%) and green spaces (18.1%); and
 - Issue 3: Affordable housing (9.7%).

Summary

21. The top three most commonly identified planning issues facing local communities throughout the District were protecting green spaces (21.5%), traffic congestion (14.5%) and local job opportunities (13.8%).

22. Issues relating to the provision (7.2%) and type (7.0%) of housing were identified as the least important overall.

23. Each local community identified the protection of green spaces as the most important planning issues with the exception of CM5 Ongar where local job opportunities were considered to be marginally more important.

24. The areas in which the provision of affordable housing was identified as being more important were CM5 Ongar (9.7%), IG9 Buckhurst Hill (8.0%) and CM16 Epping/Theydon Bois (7.8%). It was considered a less important issue in the other areas.

25. The areas in which the reduction of traffic congestion was most considered to be an important planning issue were IG10 Loughton (18.5%) and IG9 Buckhurst Hill (18.4%).

26. Achieving the right balance of shops and restaurants was identified as a top three important issue in both Epping/Theydon Bois (14.6%) and Loughton (15.7%).

27. Access to public transport was considered most important in CM5 Ongar (18.1%) and IG7 Chigwell (15.1%), whereas only 5.9% of respondents from IG10 Loughton considered it to be one of the more important issues.

Results - Approaches to growth

28. Respondents to the questionnaire were asked to identify a maximum of three most suitable approaches to the location of new houses and jobs in the District, using the following list:

- (a) Around or within existing towns;
- (b) Close to public transport links;
- (c) Close to the motorway network;
- (d) Concentrated in one existing settlement;

- (e) Development of new settlements in the countryside area;
- (f) Near the edge of Harlow;
- (g) Spread throughout existing rural settlements; and
- (h) A combination of all these options spread across the District;

29. The opportunity to identify another approach to growth was provided and 10% of respondents chose to do so. The key themes identified by these extra comments were that growth should take place on brownfield sites wherever possible, that the green belt should not be built on and that there should be no growth at all.

What did the District community say? – Table 5

Around within existing towns	/ Close to public transport links	Close to motorway network	Concentrated in one existing settlement	New settlement in countryside area	Near edge of Harlow	Spread throughout rural settlements	Combination of these options
22.1%	24.7%	9.8%	4.8%	2.5%	13.5%	7.1%	15.5%

What did local communities say? – Table 6

30. Where respondents provided their post code it was possible to breakdown the questionnaire results by area as follows.

Post code area	Around / within existing towns	Close to public transport links	Close to motorway network	Concentrated in one existing settlement	New settlement countryside area	Near edge of Harlow	Spread throughout rural settlements	Combination of these options
EN9 Waltham Abbey/ Nazeing	23.1%	24.9%	9.6%	5.1%	2.1%	12.6%	7.8%	14.8%
CM16 Epping/ Theydon Bois	23.2%	24.9%	9.6%	5.1%	2.1%	12.6%	7.8%	14.7%
IG10 Loughton	19.5%	23.2%	10.2%	4.3%	3.0%	16.7%	7.6%	15.6%
IG7 Chigwell	20.2%	25.8%	10.4%	5.5%	3.1%	9.8%	5.5%	19.6%
IG9 Buckhurst Hill	23.7%	24.3%	11.9%	2.3%	1.7%	10.7%	7.3%	18.1%
CM5 Ongar	23.4%	29.8%	8.9%	2.4%	0.8%	18.5%	5.6%	10.5%
CM17 CM18 CM19 CM22 Harlow fringe	26.0%	26.0%	11.0%	4.1%	1.4%	11.0%	6.8%	13.7%

Summary

31. The District community significantly favoured two of the potential approaches for the location of future – close to public transport links (24.7%) and around/within existing towns (22.1%). The least popular approach was to concentrate growth in one existing settlement (4.8%).

32. Local communities also echoed the preference for these two approaches to growth, although to varying degrees of support. Respondents from CM5 Ongar were strongest in their support of locating growth close to public transport links (29.8%). Support for growth around/within existing towns was weakest in IG10 Loughton and IG7 Chigwell.

33. The option of concentrating growth near the edge of Harlow was the third most popular throughout the District (13.5%). It was particularly popular with respondents from CM5 Ongar (18.5%) and IG10 Loughton (16.7%). Respondents from IG7 Chigwell (9.8%) and IG9 Buckhurst Hill (10.7%) were less supportive of growth in this location.

34. The option of developing a new settlement in the countryside area was the least popular throughout the District (2.5%). The option of concentrating development in one existing settlement was also unpopular (4.8%).

35. There was general support for adopting a combination of approaches to growth throughout the District (15.5%).

36. Responses from the Harlow fringe indicated that there was slightly less support for to growth from the local community in this area (11.0% support as an appropriate option) relative to the District average (13.5%).

Questionnaire result summary

37. The priorities for the District over the next 20 years are:

To protect and enhance green spaces whilst encouraging the growth of local jobs and business.

38. The most important planning issues facing local areas are:

Better protection for green spaces, reducing traffic congestion and providing more local job opportunities.

39. The favoured approaches to the location of new houses and jobs are:

To locate growth close to public transport links and around/within existing towns whilst considering a combination of options throughout the District where appropriate.

40. It should be noted that only 10% of respondents entered a comment in the 'other' category when asked about the most appropriate approaches to growth in the District. Of these respondents, approximately one fifth stated that they did not want to see any growth in the District – approximately 2% of respondents in total.

Community and stakeholder workshops

Community workshops

41. A programme of six community workshops was set up and promoted via the information leaflet, publicity exhibitions and a press release sent to the local media. There was a mixed response in terms of local people registering for the workshops. Due to a low number of people registering, the workshops in the rural areas of the District were cancelled and anyone who had registered was given the opportunity to meet with the LDF team in person to discuss their views.

42. Workshops went ahead for the Loughton/Chigwell/Buckhurst Hill/Epping/Theydon Bois area

on 2 December 2010 (attended by 8 people – low attendance due to snow) and in the Waltham Abbey/Nazeing area on 7 December 2010 (attended by 18 people). Debate at the workshops was lively and focused on the issues facing the local area and what approaches to growth would be most appropriate in the future. A full record of the discussion can be found in Appendix A.

Stakeholder workshops

43. Local groups and organisations held on the LDF database were invited to attend a Community Stakeholder Workshop held at Epping Hall on 30 November 2010. Developers and those with a more technical background were invited to attend a Technical Stakeholder Workshop at Epping Hall on 16 December 2010.

44. Discussion at both events focused on the planning issues facing the entire District and the most appropriate options for future growth and a record of discussion within each group can be found in Appendix A.

Workshop results - Themes

45. This section sets out a thematic overview of the views received from the four workshops:

(a) **Access to public transport:**

- Concern that the Central Line is already at capacity;
- Need to consider reopening Epping – Ongar rail link;
- Access to public transport is particularly difficult in rural areas and the north east of the District; and
- Need to improve integration between bus and rail services.

(b) **Green spaces:**

- Need to protect the green belt;
- Need to retain green spaces within urban areas; and
- Consider alterations to green belt boundary around existing settlements where appropriate.

(c) **Community facilities:**

- The District would benefit from a cinema;
- Concern about level of school and health facilities; and
- Need to ensure that community facilities are accessible.

(d) **Affordable housing:**

- Significant need to provide more affordable housing in the District;
- Many young people can not afford to buy a home in the District; and
- Particular issue in rural areas.

(e) **Local job opportunities:**

- Need more jobs for local young people, particularly in rural areas;
- More local jobs will discourage commuting culture; and
- Concern that business rates are too high.

(f) **Variety of housing types:**

- Need a mix of housing that can accommodate all needs; and
- There is no need for more large properties.

(g) **Traffic congestion:**

- Traffic congestion is a significant issue in the District;
- Traffic related to the M25 can cause problems; and

- Concern relating to the environmental impact of car use.

(h) **Shops and restaurants:**

- Mixed views on whether the balance of shops/restaurants in town centres is good or there are too many restaurants; and
- Waltham Abbey was identified as an area where the offer has declined.

Workshop Results - Priorities and growth

46. In addition to the thematic questions, each workshop group was asked to identify the top three issues facing the District and their most favoured approaches to growth. The results are set out below:

Loughton Community Workshop 2 December 2010 – Table 7

Group facilitator	Top three issues that Core Planning Strategy should address	Favoured approaches to growth
KH/AW	Protect the green belt and green spaces within urban areas Need to balance facilities and infrastructure with any growth Need to manage environmental impacts, particularly CO ₂ emissions	Waltham Abbey is a good location given regeneration and required infrastructure Some areas around Harlow The group felt that 'no growth' was a preferable approach and did not consider the provision of affordable housing to be a priority for the District.
KP/SK	Provide housing that is affordable and accommodates those with special needs Encourage local employment opportunities Improve the infrastructure to reduce congestion	Employment growth should be close to public transport links or the motorway network Housing growth should be around or within existing towns

Waltham Abbey Community Workshop 7 December 2010 – Table 8

Group facilitator	Top three issues that Core Planning Strategy should address	Favoured approaches to growth
JP	<p>Preservation of green spaces</p> <p>Provision of affordable housing</p> <p>Loss of police station and local shops</p>	<p>Some expansion of Waltham Abbey near Junction 26 of M25</p> <p>Extending existing urban areas but not all in one place</p> <p>Growth near the edge of Harlow</p>
SK	<p>Improve community infrastructure</p> <p>Preserve the green belt</p> <p>Traffic congestion</p>	<p>Improve our existing infrastructure before growth</p> <p>Sheltered accommodation for the elderly and disabled</p> <p>Employment</p>
KP	<p>Improve infrastructure/transport</p> <p>Preserve the green belt</p> <p>Provision of affordable housing</p>	<p>Close to public transport links</p> <p>Spread throughout existing settlements</p> <p>Around or within existing towns</p>
AW	<p>Preserve green spaces and the history of the area</p> <p>Better integrated public transport (bus and rail) to key areas (stations/surgeries) and infrastructure</p> <p>Recreational facilities – retain, develop and promote</p>	<p>Incremental growth proportional to settlement size</p> <p>Use existing buildings/facilities before building outwards</p>

Group facilitator	Top three issues that Core Planning Strategy should address	Favoured approaches to growth
KH/KP	<p>Traffic congestion and volume – particularly in rural areas and Epping High Street</p> <p>Housing – need to provide a mix suitable for the needs of the local community</p> <p>Protection of green belt</p>	<p>‘Pepperpot’ – spread throughout the District with the size of new development appropriate to its location</p> <p>Provide local employment and infrastructure to support any growth in rural areas.</p> <p>Around or within existing towns.</p>
JP/AW	<p>Commuter parking</p> <p>Protection of green spaces</p> <p>Traffic congestion (Epping and Loughton)</p>	<p>Close to public transport links and the motorway</p> <p>Spread throughout the existing settlements</p> <p>A combination of all these options</p>
IW/AS	<p>Safeguarding smaller house and retain a good housing mix</p> <p>Save green spaces and monitor uses of land released from the green belt</p> <p>Ensure infrastructure needs are met, particularly in terms of managing traffic congestion</p>	<p>Previously used sites to be utilised first</p> <p>Balanced approach using combination of all these options having ascertained infrastructure requirements</p> <p>Accessible to motorway junctions</p>
LM/SK	<p>Affordable housing – need evidence on the need and variety of housing types required</p> <p>Protection of green spaces in general</p> <p>Employment/local businesses – need to keep people spending locally</p>	<p>Concentrated in one existing settlement – however concern that it is unlikely as will require infrastructure improvements</p> <p>Close to motorway / public transport links – would be supported by extension of underground line to North Weald/Ongar</p>

Technical Stakeholder Workshop 16 December 2010 – Table 10

Group facilitator	Top three issues that Core Planning Strategy should address	Favoured approaches to growth
JP/SK	<p>Affordable housing – particularly in rural areas</p> <p>Retaining heritage assets</p> <p>Local employment and jobs linked to community facilities</p>	<p>Growth in existing settlements that is proportionate to their current size</p> <p>Close to public transport links</p> <p>Concentrate in one town to gain infrastructure benefits, plus smaller amounts in other settlements</p>
KH	<p>Rationalisation of green belt boundaries</p> <p>Improvements to transport infrastructure</p> <p>Enhancing the cultural, environmental and leisure assets we have</p>	<p>Windfall sites in existing town centres</p> <p>Growth in villages throughout the District ‘pepperpot’</p> <p>Medium sized towns suitable for expansion: Waltham Abbey, North Weald, Chipping Ongar</p>
AW	<p>Accessibility - public transport and congestion</p> <p>Infrastructure – need for a delivery plan</p> <p>Retaining a sense of place and local distinctiveness</p>	<p>Near the edge of Harlow</p> <p>Around existing towns</p> <p>Near to existing facilities</p>

Community workshops summary

47. The community workshops provided a great range of views on a number of planning issues and potential approaches to growth.

48. Generally the most supported options for growth were that it should be around or within existing towns, close to public transport links or close to the motorway network. There was in some cases a split between housing and employment growth with employment growth being singled out as being better located near the motorways than housing.

49. When discussing growth options the need to ensure that a supporting infrastructure was in place was a common theme that created significant concern. There was also support for the use of brownfield sites and concerns that the Central Line is already saturated and will not support any further growth at present.

Public information exhibitions

50. Information about the Core Planning Strategy and Community Visioning was exhibited at six locations in the District and in the EFDC Civic Office reception. The exhibition was accompanied by copies of the information leaflet and a box for people to return completed questionnaires. The locations were as follows:

- (a) Loughton Library: 8 Nov-19 Nov;
- (b) Waltham Abbey Library: 8 Nov – 19 Nov;

- (c) Ongar Library: 23 Nov – 3 Dec;
- (d) Stapleford Abbots Primary School: 22 Nov – 3 Dec;
- (e) Theydon Bois Village Hall: 6 Dec – 17 Dec; and
- (f) North Weald Library: 6 Dec – 17 Dec.

Planning our Future website

51. The LDF Core Planning Strategy website was updated with the Planning Our Future branding and provided information about the Community Visioning exercise and how people could get involved. The website received 1,998 views between 8 November 2010 and 7 January 2011. The community visioning questionnaire was made available on the website and 44 people chose to respond this way.

Epping Forest DC Facebook page

52. The Epping Forest DC facebook page was in existence before the Community Visioning exercise and it was considered that it was best to promote the exercise through the existing page rather than set up a new one. During the engagement period the number of 'fans' on the EFDC page increased by 11% and the facebook page was responsible for driving 118 visits to the Planning Our Future website.

Photography competition

53. The LDF team ran a photography competition to encourage people to think about the planning issues facing the District and other places they thought the District should be more like. The competition was publicised via the information leaflet, exhibition, website and a competition pack was sent to nine secondary schools/colleges in the District. A prize incentive of a meal for two at a local restaurant was offered.

54. One person took part in the competition and their pictures showed issues with on-street car parking, the District's valuable green spaces and lively community and retail activity in Debden.

What happens next

55. The results of the Community Visioning exercise will provide a key element of the evidence base used to produce and Issues and Options report in Summer 2011. The LDF team understands the significance of the views of the local community given the government's recent 'localism' agenda.

56. The Issues and Options consultation will seek to build upon the initial feedback we have received and engage on more specific issues related to development in the District. As such it is anticipated that this next stage will be of greater interest to the local community.

Resource Implications:

The Community Visioning exercise was completed within the budget agreed by LDF Cabinet Committee in October 2010.

Legal and Governance Implications:

No relevant implications

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

No relevant implications

Consultation Undertaken:

As described in the report.

Background Papers:

- Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (June 2008)
- Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008
- Communities and Local Government – Plan Making Manual
- EFDC Consultation Strategy – A Guide to Consultation 2006/2007
- LDF Communication Strategy – LDF Cabinet Committee 04/10/10 LDF-010-2010/11

Impact Assessments:Risk Management

Risk to the LDF not being found “sound” by the Inspector at the public examination due to insufficient consideration of the views of the local community.

Equality and Diversity:

Preparation of the Local Development Framework as a whole will be subject to an on-going Equality Impact Assessment, as part of the Sustainability Appraisal. The finalised Engagement Strategy will identify issues relating to equality and diversity in spatial planning. It will then set out methods for ensuring that these issues are considered throughout any consultation undertaken e.g. the provision of materials in a format suitable for blind or visually impaired people.

Did the initial assessment of the proposals contained in this report for relevance to the Council’s general equality duties, reveal any potentially adverse equality implications? No

Where equality implications were identified through the initial assessment process, has a formal Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? No

What equality implications were identified through the Equality Impact Assessment process?
None.

How have the equality implications identified through the Equality Impact Assessment been addressed in this report in order to avoid discrimination against any particular group?
None.