

Local Development Framework Cabinet Committee - 09 November 2009

Local Development Framework – Budget update
Appendix 1: Evidence Base Update

Study Title	Study Purpose	Consultant	Cost	Anticipated / Actual Completion
Harlow Area Appraisal of Planning Transport and Infrastructure Options	<p>This study being completed in partnership with Harlow & East Herts District Councils in accordance with policy HA1 of the East of England Plan.</p> <p>It will be used to inform the preparation of the Core Strategy Issues & Options consultation papers for each of the three authorities.</p>	Scott Wilson	<p>£41,942.50</p> <p>Funded by Growth Area Fund – Round3 (GAF3) – no EFDC contribution</p>	November 2009
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Core Strategy	<p>To form the baseline information and then assess the options contained within the Core Strategy Issues & Options paper.</p> <p>It is a legislative requirement for all plans and programmes to be subject to, and influenced by, this type of assessment.</p> <p>The framework used for this assessment is largely the same for Epping Forest, Harlow and East Herts Councils, to ensure the process is consistent across the three areas and will support the production of sound Core Strategies.</p>	Scott Wilson	<p>£134,899</p> <p>Funded by GAF3 – no EFDC contribution.</p> <p>Further SEA/SA for subsequent rounds of the Core Strategy & other DPDs will need to be funded by EFDC. Budgetary provision for this exists within the LDF budget.</p>	<p>Scoping Report consultation expected November 2009.</p> <p>Dependent on timescale for preparation of Issues & Options – anticipated June 2010.</p>

Study Title	Study Purpose	Consultant	Cost	Anticipated / Actual Completion
Harlow Stansted Gateway Transport Model	<p>The project will create a transportation model of the Harlow-Stansted gateway area, capable of reproducing existing significant transport movements in the study area. This model will be used as the basis for forecasting the impact of significant housing and related developments and assist in assessing the transport infrastructure required to support the developments.</p> <p>EFDC are currently guests on the Harlow Stansted Gateway Transportation Board, but the outcomes of this work will help make strategic decisions about the growth of Harlow where there may be an impact on Epping Forest district.</p>	Faber Maunsell	<p>Total cost: £255,950 Stage 1 Transport Model Development. GAF3 – Programme of Development (POD), Essex and Herts County Councils, Highways Agency.</p> <p>No EFDC contribution</p>	Autumn 2009
Rye Meads Water Cycle Study	<p>The study will assess the impact of planned growth on water cycle processes, water infrastructure capacity and environmental capacity. It will recommend viable infrastructure options to accommodate planned growth and ensure water infrastructure is not a limiting factor to the growth of the area.</p>	Hyder Consulting	<p>Total cost: £250,000 – GAF3 - POD Partnership of East Herts, North Herts, Epping Forest, Broxbourne, Harlow & Stevenage Councils.</p> <p>No EFDC contribution.</p>	Complete October 2009

Study Title	Study Purpose	Consultant	Cost	Anticipated / Actual Completion
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	This study is being undertaken jointly with Harlow, East Herts, Uttlesford, Broxbourne and Brentwood Councils. It will determine the Housing Market Areas across the sub-region, and make an assessment of housing need both within each Housing Market Area, and in each Local Authority area.	Opinion Research Services & Savills	£59,950 (+ £3,117.40 advertising costs) EFDC contribution - £10,511	November 2009
Strategic Housing Market Assessment – Viability Testing	PPS3: <i>Housing</i> requires that all policies requiring affordable housing provision are based on robust and sound evidence of need and viability. The viability testing of the outcomes contained in the SHMA still to be completed. Further study/tender process required. Broxbourne Borough Council have chosen to opt out of this work.	To be confirmed	£40,000 (estimate) To be split equally between the 5 authorities	January 2010
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	To identify land which could potentially be suitable for housing purposes over a 15 year period. This study does not guarantee that planning permission will ultimately be granted, but identifies possible sources of housing land supply. The proposed methodology is subject to a separate report on this agenda, but specifies a two-stage process, in which urban capacity is considered first.	To be confirmed whether consultancy is required.	If in-house, from existing resources. If a consultancy support is necessary a further report will be required.	Urban capacity – April 2010 Urban fringes – September 2010
Town Centres Study	To consider the health of the town centres, including the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that exist.	Roger Tym & Partners	£39,038	October 2009
Employment Land Study	The Employment Land Study will consider the current employment land available and the opportunities for further provision. To be commissioned jointly with Brentwood Borough Council shortly.	To be confirmed	£50,000 (estimate) To be split equally with Brentwood BC	February 2010

Study Title	Study Purpose	Consultant	Cost	Anticipated / Actual Completion
Landscape Character Appraisal	This Appraisal will consider the landscape of the entire district, building on work that has been completed across Essex. There is a need for a more detailed assessment of Epping Forest district to inform the preparation of the Core Strategy	Chris Blandford Associates	£24,745	October 2009
Landscape Sensitivity Study	All of the principal settlements that are currently bounded by the Green Belt will be assessed to identify the relative sensitivity of each area to development. Moreton & Sewardstone will also be assessed despite being washed over by the Green Belt.	Chris Blandford Associates	£24,980	November 2009
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment – Level 1 Level 2	<p>A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is the ‘categorisation’ of flood risk on an area-wide basis in accordance with PPS25: <i>Development & Flood Risk</i>. This first stage is being undertaken jointly with Harlow Council.</p> <p>The Level 2 assessment will be required on a site specific basis when the Council is considering land allocations. This will be needed to support later stages of the Core Strategy if strategic development sites are to be allocated.</p>	<p>Level 1 – In-house</p> <p>Level 2 – to be confirmed</p>	<p>From existing resources</p> <p>£40,000 (estimate)</p>	<p>December 2009</p> <p>Dependent on timetable of Core Strategy – likely to be complete by December 2010.</p>
Phase 1 Habitat Study	<p>This study will update survey work last undertaken during the early 1990s. A field-by-field study of the habitats that exist in the district will be carried out, with a thorough assessment of existing County Wildlife Sites also included.</p> <p>This study will form the basis for reviewing the designation of Wildlife Sites, and will influence the location of new development.</p>	Essex Ecology Services	£49,660 (payment over 2008/09 and 2009/10)	December 2009

Study Title	Study Purpose	Consultant	Cost	Anticipated / Actual Completion
PPG17: <i>Planning for Open Space, Sport & Recreation Audit</i>	PPG17 requires that an audit of existing open space & recreation opportunities is undertaken.	In-house	From existing resources	November 2009
PPG17: <i>Planning for Open Space, Sport & Recreation Assessment</i>	<p>Following completion of the audit, an assessment of surpluses or deficits within any of the categories will need to be carried out. This must also be accompanied by an assessment by seeking public opinion of the quality of existing open space & recreation facilities.</p> <p>This further work will require the employment of consultants with expertise in this area.</p>	To be confirmed	£20,000 (estimate)	March 2010
Ward Profiles	To provide background information at a ward level to support the preparation of the Core Strategy (and future DPDs) and the Community Strategy.	In-house	From existing resources	December 2009 (to be updated annually)