

# **Report to Planning Scrutiny Panel**

**Date of meeting: 2 September 2014**

**Portfolio: Planning**

**Subject: The London Infrastructure Delivery Plan**

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**Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins (Ext 4607)**



# SCRUTINY

 Epping Forest District Council

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## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

- (i) That a response to the London Infrastructure Delivery Plan consultation be recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the District Council's response before the deadline of 31 October 2014.

## **Report:**

1. The London Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has been published by the Mayor of London for consultation and makes the case for better infrastructure provision in London and should be considered alongside the level of growth envisaged in the Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP) to reflect the need to plan for housing and economic capacity in response to the Census 2011. This IDP seeks to invest in London's infrastructure and support its growth and is seen as a major milestone for London in reaching agreement about what infrastructure is needed, how much it will cost and how it can be funded and delivered. The consultation document can be accessed here:  
<https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/London%20Infrastructure%20Plan%202050%20%E2%80%93%20consultation%20document.pdf>
2. The Mayor of London has published a number of key policy reports which make the case for better infrastructure provision, in London, as follows:
  - (i) The Independent London Finance Commission Report argues for the full devolution of property taxes to London government with associated increases in borrowing levels to enable London government to increase investment in its own infrastructure, which is identified as a priority for the future success of the City.
  - (ii) The Mayors 2020 Vision document identifies world class infrastructure provision that meets the city's needs as a critical element of the vision.
  - (iii) The Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP) document sets out the scale of the housing challenge to 2036 and recommends planning policies to address it, including identified housing capacity to 2025 and a range of other proposals about infrastructure and the environment, to ensure good quality sustainable development.
  - (iv) The London First Infrastructure Commission examines the challenges the capital faces because of a growing population and workforce, ageing infrastructure and demanding fiscal context, and looks at all solutions to planning, delivery and financing for the future. It specifically calls for stronger city-wide strategic infrastructure planning for London with greater coordination across sectors.

3. The London Infrastructure Development Plan, 2050 is a high level report to examine London's infrastructure over the next 50 years and identifies shortfalls and opportunities. This Plan sets out a mechanism to deliver key projects outlined within the FALP such as the transport schemes relevant to Epping Forest District Council. However the Committee should be aware that the London Infrastructure Delivery Plan does not set out how policies will be delivered, implemented and monitored. Instead this is a business case for London to have control of its own finances through fiscal devolution. The Consultation is open for a 3 month period and will close on the 31 October 2014. The consultation is structured around 24 consultation questions.
4. EFDC supports the prioritization of transport schemes such as the four-tracking of the West Anglia lines along the whole of the Upper Lee Valley and the Central Line because of (i) predicted job growth in Central London, (ii) the importance of the Central Line in terms of delivering commuters to this area and (iii) its particular importance to the lower end of the London-Stansted-Cambridge Corridor.
5. In addition, EFDC continues to support the Mayors approach to London's growth i.e., that it should take place within its current boundaries without encroaching on the Green Belt or protected open spaces up to 2025, when a full London Plan Review will be undertaken. However, opportunities identified in the IDP also include increasing densities in South East London in meeting housing and transport requirements. It is therefore important that the Mayor of London engages fully and effectively with cross boundary partnerships in the medium and longer term, since any longer term trends for high population growth, and particularly growth beyond London's administrative boundaries, are likely to be seen in the context of improving accessibility by public transport. These points are proposed to be made in response to the Consultation.
6. Members should be aware that this Consultation refers to the Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP). The Council has made a formal response to the FALP, although this was not considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as timings for the consultation did not fit the schedule for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Reason for decision:**

To endorse the Councils response to the London Infrastructure Delivery Plan in support of the draft Further Alterations to the London Plan, timetabled for Examination in Public from 1 September to 18 September 2015.

**Options considered and rejected:**

Not to approve the Councils response to the London Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This would mean that the opportunity of influencing the delivery of key transport projects outlined in the FALP and relevant to Epping Forest District Council and its forthcoming Preferred Options Local Plan would be lost.

**Consultation undertaken:**

N/A

**Resource implications:**

Budget provision: N/A

Personnel: N/A

Land: N/A

Community Plan/BVPP reference:

Relevant statutory powers:

**Background papers:**

Further Alterations to the London Plan, 2013  
Formal EFDC Response attached

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:  
N/A

Key Decision reference: (if required)