

# **Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee**



## SCRUTINY

**Date of meeting: 16 September 2014**

**Subject: Consultation – London Infrastructure Delivery Plan**



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**Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry (Ext 4246)**

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### **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

- (1) That the committee agree the District Council's response to the London Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) consultation highlighting the following:**
  - (a) That the District Council supports the prioritization of transport schemes on the West Anglia lines and Central Line because it assists in facilitating job growth in Central London, delivering commuters and its importance to the lower end of the London-Stansted-Cambridge Corridor but greater infrastructure was needed particularly for car parking at stations;**
  - (b) That the District Council supports the Mayor of London's approach to London's growth by keeping it within current boundaries without encroaching on Green Belt and protected open spaces up to the full London Plan Review in 2025; and**
  - (c) That the Mayor of London is encouraged to engage fully with cross boundary partnerships in the medium and longer term, as the IDP includes increasing densities in South East London to meet housing and transport requirements.**

### **Report:**

1. At the Planning Scrutiny Panel on 2 September, Members discussed the Mayor of London's consultation for the London Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which made the case for better infrastructure provision in London. The Mayor of London has published a number of key policy reports making the case for better infrastructure as follows:

(a) 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.

(b) The Mayor's 2020 Vision document identifies world class infrastructure provision which meets the city's needs;

(c) The Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP) document sets out the scale of the housing challenge to 2036 with planning policies to address it, including identified housing capacity to 2025. There are a range of other proposals about infrastructure and the environment to ensure good quality sustainable development.

(d) The London First Infrastructure Commission examines the challenges faced by the capital because of growing population and workforce, an ageing infrastructure and demanding fiscal context. The commission looks at all solutions to planning, delivery and financing for the future, specifically calling for stronger city wide strategic infrastructure planning with greater coordination across sectors.

2. The Panel was advised that the London Infrastructure Delivery Plan does not set out how policies will be delivered, implemented and monitored. Instead, it made a business case for London to control its own finances through fiscal devolution.

3. The Panel 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 Central Line because of:

- (a) Predicted job growth in Central London;
- (b) The Central Line's importance in delivering commuters to this area; and
- (c) Its particular importance to the lower end of the London-Stansted-Cambridge corridor.

Members were interested in obtaining more details on car parking facilities around train stations as there was already a congestion problem there.

4. Members supported the Mayor's approach to London's growth in that it should take place within its current boundaries without encroaching on the Green Belt, up to the full London Plan Review undertaken in 2015. However, the IDP also includes increasing densities in South East London to meet housing and transport requirements. It is important that the Mayor of London engages fully and effectively with cross boundary partnerships in the medium to longer term. Any longer term trends for high population growth are likely to be seen in the context of improving public transport accessibility.

The consultation ends on 31 October 2014.

The consultation document can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/London%20Infrastructure%20Plan%202050%20%E2%80%93%20consultation%20document.pdf>

**Reason for decision:**

To endorse the Council's 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 Council's 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)