

Report of the Director of City Strategy

**Local Development Framework:
Festival of Ideas 2 consultation summary (including
consultation on LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options 2)**

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to highlight to members the headline results arising from the Festival of Ideas 2 consultation, which the City of York Council undertook in partnership with the Local Strategic Partnership (Without Walls) during Autumn 2007. These comments will be used to inform the production of the Core Strategy and other Development Plan Documents.
2. This report presents the different consultation documents which were produced; sets out who was consulted; and outlines the methods and techniques used during consultation. The analysis section provides a snapshot summary of the responses received. A full summary of headline responses is contained in the annexes.

Background

3. The LDF Core Strategy will be the first development plan document produced by the Council under the new planning system. It will be a compact written statement of the planning strategy and vision for the City of York, together with strategic policies. All other planning documents produced will have to reflect the Core Strategy and it will have an important role in terms of development control. It will therefore be influential in shaping the development of the City of York over the next two decades.
4. The Core Strategy will go through several formal stages of consultation during its production, as set out in the Local Development Scheme. Consultation on a first stage of Issues and Options took place during Summer 2006. The second stage of Issues and Options consultation gave an opportunity for more detailed consideration of a broader range of options.
5. Government Guidance in PPS12 indicates that the Local Development Framework should be a key component in the delivery of the spatial aspects of an authority's community strategy. Joint consultation to inform the production of a Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Development Framework reflects best practice guidance. In 2003, as part of a 'Festival of

Ideas', York residents were asked about the kind of York they wanted to see in the future. Given recent changes in the city, new issues which have arisen since the publication of 'York – city making history', and the programmed second stage of Issues and Options consultation for the Core Strategy, it was decided to ask residents once again to join in the discussion about York's future through a Festival of Ideas 2.

Consultation

6. The Festival of Ideas 2 ran from 17 September to 31 October 2007 (although later comments were received and logged), and included:
 - a series of public exhibitions across the city, including exhibiting at the Climate Change conference, running a 3 day exhibition in the city centre and manned displays at supermarkets across the city;
 - attendance at surgeries, and presentations to 13 ward committees;
 - two focused workshops (one with the Talkabout panel, and one aimed at better understanding the needs of hard to reach groups in York);
 - a postal survey to all households, also made available online - 88,000 questionnaires were sent out, one to every household within the city;
 - City Summits: two public access conferences at the Park Inn hotel;
 - a 'Festival of Ideas 2' webpage and online survey;
 - documents were made available at all libraries and at the Guildhall and St. Leonards Place receptions.
7. A series of publications were produced to provide focus for the range of consultation events, namely:
 - 'Have your say on York's future' questionnaire
 - Core Strategy Issues and Options 2 (September 2007)
 - Core Strategy Issues and Options 2 Sustainability Statement
 - 'Festival of Ideas 2' page on the council's website
8. Around 3,000 people took part in the consultation by attending events or responding to the questionnaire (over 2,300 questionnaires were returned, including 89 online responses).
9. The attached annexes collate the headline comments which were received in response to the Festival's events:
 - Annex A - reports on the 'Have your say on York's future' questionnaire
 - Annex B - summarises the headline responses to the Core Strategy Issues and Options 2 report, and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal. A full summary of responses has been placed in the members library.
 - Annex C - captures the views and opinions of those attending 2 focused workshops
 - Annex D - provides feedback from the City Summits

In addition, Annex E sets out the timetable of consultation events.

Analysis

10. To fully understand the comments provided it is important that the Annexes highlighted above are considered in full. However this section provides a snapshot, highlighting some of the key messages provided through the consultation exercise.

Locating New Development

11. Around half of all those responding felt that new development should be concentrated in York's main urban area with just over a third preferring new development to be shared between the villages and the main urban area.
12. The majority of respondents to the questionnaire, over two-thirds, thought that the council should only permit development in areas with low flood risk. A number of those responding to the LDF Core Strategy Issues & Options 2 document however felt that other sustainability factors should also be considered.

Homes

13. Opinion over levels of housing growth was clearly divided. Over two fifths (41%) of respondents to the questionnaire are in favour of building 880 or more new homes each year. However, almost half of those who responded to the questionnaire favour building 630 homes or less per year.
14. Over half of respondents to the questionnaire agree with the current affordable housing policy, but a sizeable proportion (32%) disagree. However of those who disagree with the policy, half (48%) are in favour of building more affordable homes within each development. 29% of those who disagree with the current policy think less affordable homes should be built.
15. Of those responding to the LDF Core Strategy Issue & Options 2 document most felt that the level of affordable housing should be reduced to a target closer to the Regional Spatial Strategy target of 40%, but that the threshold could be reduced below 15 dwellings or 0.3 hectare.

Employment

16. Three quarters of all respondents think it is important for the council to support Science City (more hi-tech jobs) and seven out of ten think support for the hospitality & tourism industry is an important focus for the council. Over half of all respondents think it is important for the council to support the Professional & Financial Services Construction & transport, Light industrial and traditional manufacturing.

17. Six out of ten (62%) respondents to the questionnaire favour building some of the housing needed to accommodate York's workforce outside the authority boundary. 38% said enough housing should be provided in York to meet the needs of any additional employees. Those responding to the LDF Core Strategy Issue & Options 2 document were equally split regarding the same issue.

Retail & Leisure

18. Nearly two-thirds of respondents to the questionnaire are in favour of building more leisure attractions in the city centre, and around a third to building more shops. 55% said they don't want more shops to be built in the city centre.
19. The majority of those responding to the LDF Core Strategy Issues & Options 2 Document felt that retail growth should be directed to York City Centre and district centres and that the LDF should recognise the opportunity provided by major development sites such as York NorthWest. In addition there were a number of responses supporting the designation of Monks Cross and Clifton Moor as district centres.
20. Generally respondents felt further in depth consideration should be given to leisure and culture within the LDF.

Environmental Resources

21. Four fifths of all respondents support having at least 10% of energy demand coming from renewable sources.
22. Respondents were asked whether the quantity, quality or accessibility of open space was most important to improve. Two-thirds of respondents to the questionnaire felt that when considering open space provision priority should be given to improving its quality, a fifth supported increasing the amount of open space and around 12% said improving its accessibility was most important. However, a majority of people responding to the LDF Core Strategy Issues & Options 2 document felt that quantity, quality and accessibility should be given equal importance.

Transport

23. Respondents were asked to rank from 1 to 3 the best ways of reducing congestion in York. In order of priority respondents favoured: promoting the use of alternative forms of travel; locating new development near public transport, shops and other services to encourage people to use the car less, and; increasing the capacity of the ring road.

Priorities

24. A question was added at the end of the questionnaire regarding the 'difficult choices' we need to make in balancing environmental concerns with the growth of the city. The top three priorities for York highlighted by those

responding to the questionnaire were: reducing our impact on the environment (63%); developing the economy; jobs and skills (59%); and improving travel within, and to and from York (55%). The other priorities are as follows:

- Building strong, safe and healthy communities (54%);
- Ensuring the city's housing and social needs are met (eg community and youth centres) (39%);
- Improving the city's physical, cultural and leisure facilities – for instance, by building more shops, live music venue and tourist attractions (22%).

Next steps

25. The Core Strategy is one of the folder of documents that together will make up York's Local Development Framework. Its production is included in the Council's adopted Local Development Scheme, with the aim of adoption by late 2009/early 2010.
26. The next formal stage in moving towards adoption is the production of a Preferred Options report. This will set out the Council's preferred approach to a spatial strategy, policies and proposals, which together would provide York's statutory development plan and the context for future development. Officers will use the responses from consultation to date, alongside other emerging evidence base (including the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy), to provide the context for moving towards Preferred Options. Officers will present further reports to Members in due course.

Options

27. There are no options relating to this report.

Corporate Priorities

28. The Core Strategy has the potential to contribute towards the delivery of all of the Corporate Priorities through its policies and actions. It will aim to:
 - Decrease the tonnage of biodegradable waste and recyclable products going to landfill;
 - Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from council activities and encourage, empower and promote others to do the same;
 - Increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport.
 - Improve the actual and perceived condition and appearance of city's streets, housing estates and publicly accessible spaces.
 - Reduce the actual and perceived impact of violent, aggressive and nuisance behaviour on people in York.
 - Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects;
 - Improve the economic prosperity of the people of York with a focus on minimising income differentials;

- Improve the health and lifestyle of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest;
- Improve the life chances of the most disadvantages and disaffected children, young people and families in the city;
- Improve the quality and availability of decent, affordable homes in the city.

Implications

29. The following implications have been assessed:

- **Financial** - None
- **Human Resources (HR)** - None
- **Equalities** - None
- **Legal** - None
- **Crime and Disorder** - None
- **Information Technology (IT)** - None
- **Property** – None
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

30. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

That Members:

1) Note the comments received from consultees in response to the Festival of Ideas 2 consultation, and support their consideration in informing the production of Core Strategy Preferred Options report and, where relevant, other emerging LDF documents.

Reason: To ensure that the LDF Core Strategy can be progressed to its next stage of development as highlighted in the Council's Local Development Scheme.

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Specialist Implications Officers: *None*

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Core Strategy Issues and Options 2, September 2007
Core Strategy Issues and Options 2 Sustainability Statement, September 2007
'Have your say on York's future' questionnaire

Annexes:

- Annex A - Report on responses to 'Have your say on York's future' questionnaire
- Annex B - Summary and headline responses to the Core Strategy Issues and Options 2 report, and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.
- Annex C - Note collating the views and opinions of those attending 2 focused workshops
- Annex D - Feedback from the City Summits
- Annex E - Timetable of consultation events.