

<p style="text-align: center;">Luton & South Bedfordshire Joint Committee</p> <p style="text-align: right;">29 November 2007</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Agenda Item No. 13</p>	
AUTHOR	Joint Officer Team (Alan Storah)
SUBJECT	The Luton and South Bedfordshire Local Development Scheme
PURPOSE	To update the Committee about the progress on the preparation of the Local Development Scheme.
RECOMMENDATION	The Joint Committee is recommended to note the progress made.
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION	For the Committee to acknowledge the current situation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its previous meeting on 21 September, the Committee was informed that the draft Local Development Scheme (LDS) had been submitted to GO East by the requisite deadline. The date of submission gave GO East to 9 October to respond. If they did not do so then the LDS would come into effect on 10 October.

2.0 CURRENT SITUATION

- 2.1 GO East did respond on 9 October and requested that the date the LDS comes into effect be delayed. This was as a consequence of comments received from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) whom they had consulted. These comments made related mainly to timetabling and sought the following:

Suggested Amendment	Reason
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay Inquiry and Adoption Core Strategy by 2 months (to Nov. 2009 and Jan. 2010 respectively) 	Period between submission and examination should be at least 6 months.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay programme for preparation of Development Control Policies DPD 	Core Strategy should be seen to be the lead DPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption date for Planning Obligations SPD and Urban Design Guidance SPD should slip to Jan 2010 	Adoption of SPDs cannot predate Core Strategy DPD

2.2 Officers considered and accepted these amendments and proposed consequential changes to the LDS. These were subsequently endorsed by the Members' Steering Group. PINS had also suggested further minor changes to the LDS as a consequence of omissions and printing errors. Most were accepted though not all, as to do so would imply a commitment to producing documents which are currently optional. GO East were notified of the response to the PINS comments and at the time of writing, no response has been received but it is expected to be able to update the Committee at the meeting

2.3 Members should note that the LDS will be reviewed annually in the context of the Annual Monitor Report (the 2008 version of which will combine Luton and South Bedfordshire's data). It may also be necessary to revise the LDS probably during the course of 2008, if, as anticipated by the Planning White Paper, the government amends the legislation to remove the requirement to apply Regulation 26 (i.e. public participation on the preferred options).