

Agenda Item 8

Council

24 February 2010

JFM/MD



East Devon Local Development Framework: Emerging Spatial Vision

Summary

This report advises members of the emerging Spatial Vision for the District. The emerging vision will be refined as a consequence of ongoing consultation and member consideration leading up to Core Strategy preferred option report production and consultation in the summer of 2010.

Recommendation

That the emerging Spatial Vision for the District, as at February 2010, be endorsed by Council as a basis to inform ongoing consultation and the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report.

a) Reasons for Recommendation

To secure Member support before public engagement and consultation on the Core Strategy scheduled for March and April 2010.

b) Alternative Options

There is a legal requirement to undertake ongoing consultation as part of the production of the Core Strategy and therefore no alternatives are identified.

c) Risk Considerations

Failure to produce a Core Strategy and to have consulted on its content will run counter to legislative requirements. This would jeopardise the likelihood of it being found 'sound' at examination and therefore its successful adoption. Including superfluous information within the Plan and/or not covering all of the appropriate and relevant issues and options could also put it at risk of being found unsound and also raises the possibility of the Council being vulnerable to a legal challenge.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

The recommended next round of consultation on potential strategic site allocations is part of the statutory process to produce the Local Development Framework and can be achieved within the current LDF budget. However, in the long term ongoing scrutiny will need to be taken of available funds and costs in order to ensure that the Core strategy (and other LDF documents) can proceed to adoption.

e) Date for Review of Decision

Not applicable

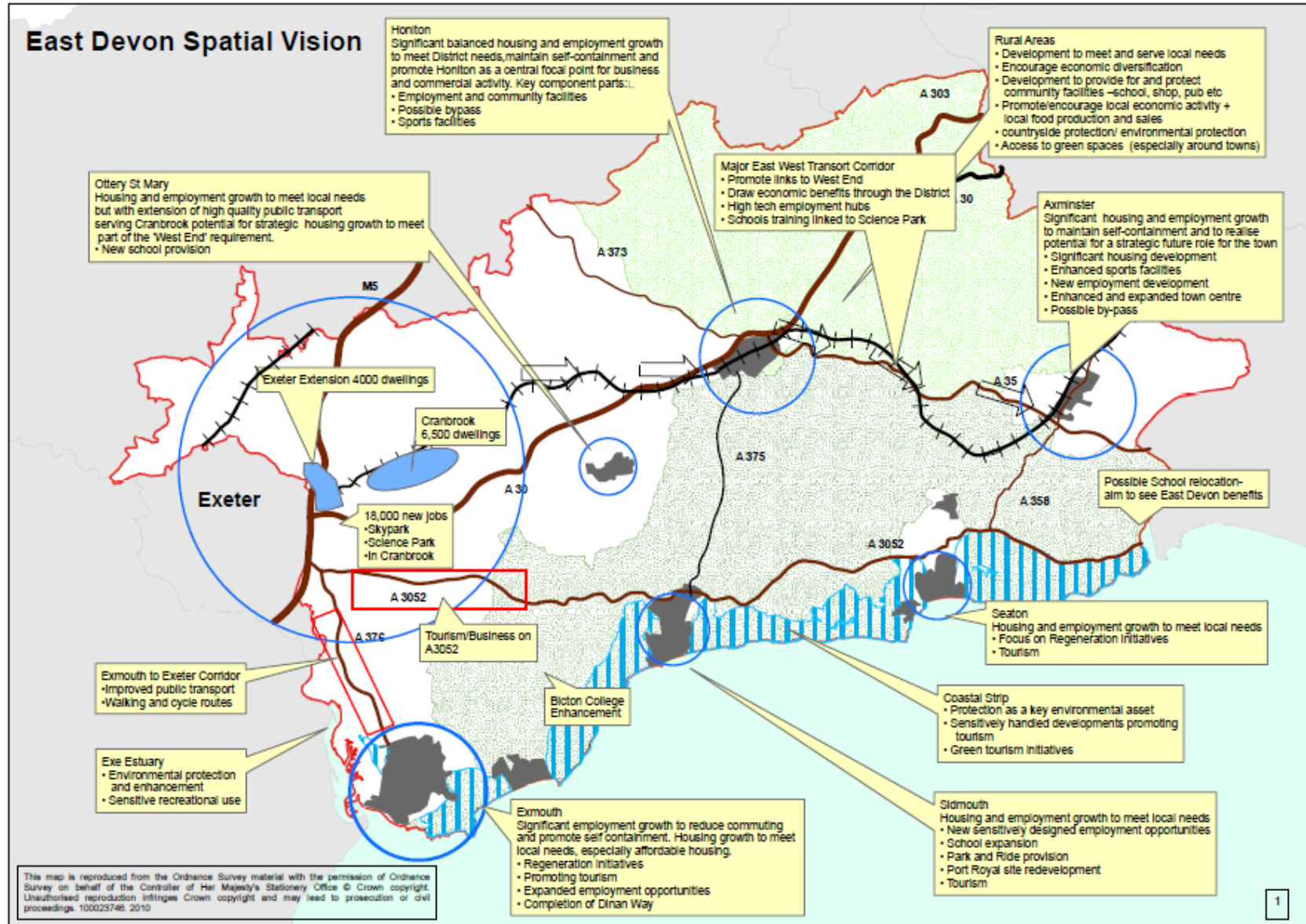
1.0 Background - Local Development Framework and the Core Strategy

- 1.1 The plan making system changed in England in 2004 with the introduction of a legal requirement for Council's to produce Local Development Frameworks (or LDFs). The LDF is not a single document but is a term used to refer to a range of plans and policy documents and also other supporting documents.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered a full report on the progress of the LDF and the emerging spatial vision on 2 February 2010. The minutes of this meeting are included in the Minute Book – pages 22-35. A recommendation was made at that meeting for the emerging spatial strategy to be presented to full Council, in order to provide all Members with the opportunity to examine the spatial strategy and consider whether this was the direction that the District was to take for the future.

2.0 The Emerging Core Strategy Vision for East Devon

- 2.1 The emerging spatial vision has been defined for East Devon based on the work to date of the LDF Panel. The plan on the following page sets out, in spatial/plan terms, the strategy for the District. This plan can and will be added to over the coming weeks as new themes and issues emerge through public consultation and engagement. As an addition to the plan, as currently depicted, and following Overview Committee consideration, the Axe Estuary will be identified on the plan as a key corridor of biodiversity and recreation and tourism importance.
- 2.2 In addition to the plan there will be generic District wide themes to be identified such as the importance of securing affordable housing. The vision, as amended, will be set out and will inform the Core Strategy Preferred Options report.

East Devon Spatial Vision



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Legal Implications

The report (including the paper considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee) explains the statutory framework applicable to consultation and preparation of the Core Strategy, and risks of not complying with procedures. The costs of any possible legal challenge in the event of non-compliance are not quantifiable at present.

Financial Implications

There is a sum of approximately £140,000 held in Reserves for the purpose of producing the LDF.

Background Papers

Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to draft Regional Spatial Strategy July 2008

Planning for the Future: East Devon LDF – Issues and Options Consultation Report, December 2008

Planning for the Future: East Devon LDF – Issues and Options further Consultation on an option for an urban extension to Exeter at Redhayes/Blackhorse November 2009

John Maidment Planning Policy Manager
Matt Dickins Principal Planning Officer

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