

# Policy Review and Development Panel

Grand Jury Room, Town Hall  
25 February 2013 at 6.00pm

The Policy Review Panel deals with reviewing policies and issues at the request of the Cabinet or Portfolio Holder, or pro-actively identifying issues that may require review; dealing with those issues either directly or by establishing Task and Finish Groups, monitoring progress of these Groups and assessing their final reports.

# Information for Members of the Public

## Access to information and meetings

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## Have Your Say!

The Council values contributions from members of the public. Under the Council's Have Your Say! policy you can ask questions or express a view to meetings, with the exception of Standards Committee meetings. If you wish to speak at a meeting or wish to find out more, please refer to Attending Meetings and "Have Your Say" at [www.colchester.gov.uk](http://www.colchester.gov.uk)

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# Terms of Reference

## Policy Review and Development Panel

- To review strategies and policies at the request of the Cabinet either directly or by establishing Task and Finish Groups, and to make recommendations back to Cabinet for decision.
- To review issues at the request of a Portfolio Holder either directly or by establishing Task and Finish Groups and to make recommendations back to the Portfolio Holder for decision.
- To monitor progress of Task and Finish Groups and assess their final reports prior to their submission to either the Cabinet or the Portfolio Holder.
- To proactively identify issues that may require review and improvement and to seek Cabinet's agreement as to whether and how they should be examined.

**COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL**  
**25 February 2013 at 6:00pm**

**Members**

Chairman : Councillor Julie Young.  
Deputy Chairman : Councillor Mark Cory.  
Councillors Nigel Chapman, Mark Cable, Barrie Cook,  
Margaret Fairley-Crowe and Jo Hayes.

**Substitute Members** : All members of the Council who are not Cabinet members or members of this Panel.

**Agenda - Part A**

(open to the public including the media)

**Members of the public may wish to note that Agenda items 1 to 6 are normally brief and the last Agenda Item is a standard one for which there may be no business to consider.**

**Pages**

**1. Welcome and Announcements**

(a) The Chairman to welcome members of the public and Councillors and to remind all speakers of the requirement for microphones to be used at all times.

(b) At the Chairman's discretion, to announce information on:

- action in the event of an emergency;
- mobile phones switched off or to silent;
- location of toilets;
- introduction of members of the meeting.

**2. Substitutions**

Members may arrange for a substitute councillor to attend a meeting on their behalf, subject to prior notice being given. The attendance of substitute councillors must be recorded.

**3. Urgent Items**

To announce any items not on the agenda which the Chairman has agreed to consider because they are urgent and to give reasons for the urgency.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman to invite Councillors to declare individually any interests they may have in the items on the agenda. Councillors should consult Meetings General Procedure Rule 7 for full guidance on the registration and declaration of interests. However Councillors may wish to note the following:-

- Where a Councillor has a disclosable pecuniary interest, other pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest in any business of the authority and he/she is present at a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, the Councillor must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest, whether or not such interest is registered on his/her register of Interests or if he/she has made a pending notification.
- If a Councillor has a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at a meeting, he/she must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter at the meeting. The Councillor must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held unless he/she has received a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer.
- Where a Councillor has another pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at a meeting and where the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgment of the public interest, the Councillor must disclose the existence and nature of the interest and withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held unless he/she has received a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer.
- Failure to comply with the arrangements regarding disclosable pecuniary interests without reasonable excuse is a criminal offence, with a penalty of up to £5,000 and disqualification from office for up to 5 years.

## **5. Have Your Say!**

(a) The Chairman to invite members of the public to indicate if they wish to speak or present a petition at this meeting – either on an item on the agenda or on a general matter not on this agenda. You should indicate your wish to speak at this point if your name has not been noted by Council staff.

(b) The Chairman to invite contributions from members of the public who wish to Have Your Say! on a general matter not on this agenda.

## **6. Minutes**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 14

January 2013.

## **7. Rural Related Issues**

**1 - 9**

See report by the Head of Life Opportunities

The following guests have been approached and accepted an invitation to attend the meeting to assist councillors in their discussions:

- Lloyd Felton at County Broadband;
- Alan Lindsay from Essex County Council;
- Nick Shuttleworth from Essex Rural Community Council;
- John Gili-Ross and Robert Johnstone on behalf of Colchester Association of Local Councils;
- Tracy Rudling, Colchester Community Voluntary Service;
- Gordon Steed from Colchester Borough Homes.

## **8. Work Programme 2012-13**

**10 - 13**

See report by the Head of Corporate Management

## **9. Exclusion of the public**

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended) to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential personal, financial or legal advice), in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

25 February 2013

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Head of Life Opportunities</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Lucie Breadman</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Rural Related Issues</b>		 <b>282726</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	All rural wards		

**This report draws together information for consideration of a number of issues from a rural perspective**

## 1. Decision(s) Required

- 1.1 To consider the issues presented in the report, together with any further information presented to the Panel by the various guests who have been invited to attend the meeting.

## 2. Reasons for Consideration

- 2.1 The Panel has been conducting a series of theme led meetings during the current year, including Localism and Town Centre Issues and to complete the work programme the current meeting has been scheduled to consider rural related issues.

## 3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 Following input from the Panel members in terms of topics for discussion, the following main themes emerged for consideration:
- Broadband
  - Transport
  - Isolation issues for younger and older people
  - Provision of suitable homes for villagers to move into when their families move on and/or as they get less mobile
  - More encouragement for the use of redundant farm buildings for small business use
  - Colchester Borough Homes Rural Strategy
- 3.2 A number of colleagues have provided information set out in paragraph 5 below responding to the themes identified, including:
- Nigel Myers, Enterprise and Tourism Manager
  - Paul Wilkinson, Transportation Policy Manager
  - Bridget Tighe, Community Initiatives Manager
  - Laura Chase, Planning Policy Manager

## 4. Invited Guests

- 4.1 The following guests have been approached and accepted an invitation to attend the meeting to assist councillors in their discussions:
- Lloyd Felton at County Broadband

- Alan Lindsay from Essex County Council
- Nick Shuttleworth from Essex Rural Community Council
- John Gili-Ross and Robert Johnstone on behalf of Colchester Association of Local Councils
- Tracy Rudling, Colchester Community Voluntary Service
- Gordon Steed from Colchester Borough Homes

4.2 Each guest has been asked to consider briefly addressing the Panel on issues from their own, or their organisation's, perspectives.

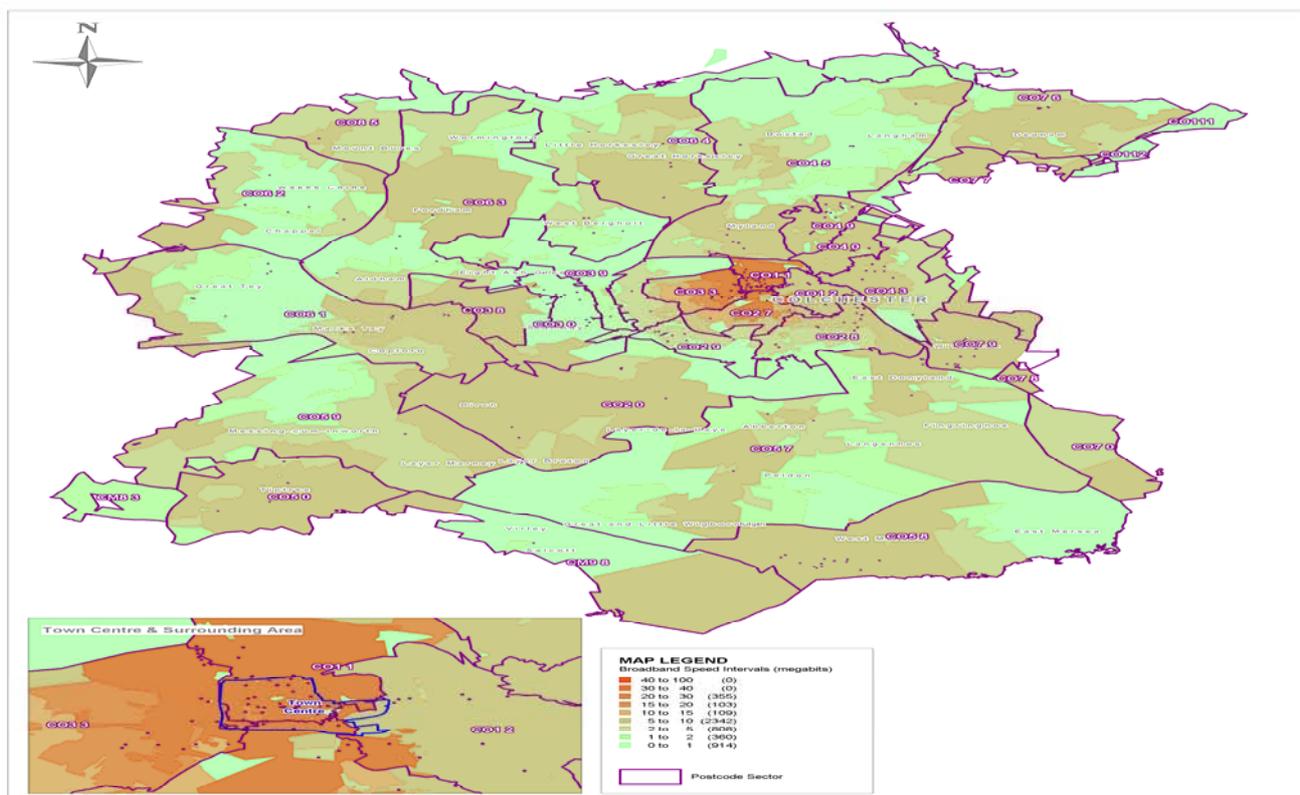
4.3 In accordance with the format from recent meetings, the Panel will receive an overview from the Head of Life Opportunities setting out the Council's approach with support from officers as necessary and each guest will be invited to address the Panel on the issue as it relates to them. There will be opportunities for questions from Councillors and discussion after the overview and again following each guests' contribution.

## 5. Broadband

5.1 The provision of rural broadband (also called the 4<sup>th</sup> Utility) is becoming increasingly important to ensuring that we have engaged residents and resilient communities. It also impacts on a range of other rural issues including business competitiveness, home working and healthcare services & monitoring.

5.2 The broadband speeds in Colchester currently range from 0.05 Mbps (Megabits per second) in some rural locations to 20+Mbps in town centre sites.

Colchester Broadband Speed Overview



© Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100023706 | Not To Scale | 16/08/2011.  
Broadband data: Broadband Delivery UK | Broadband speeds are headline download speeds only; actual speeds will be much lower.

5.3 Essex County Council is leading the Superfast Essex Broadband Project. This is a £13 million public sector investment in broadband infrastructure that aims to provide universal

access to 2Mbps by 2015 and to 8Mbps by 2018. The project will be making the majority of this investment in rural areas. Essex County Council recognises that in many cases it would not be commercially viable for the telecoms industry to make the necessary investment without public investment. The latter is intended to bridge the gap to subsidise market failure. Colchester Borough Council is the first district in Essex to be represented on the Superfast Essex Board responsible for ensuring delivery of the project.

- 5.4 The Colchester Digital Strategy also aims to significantly accelerate the delivery of high speed digital infrastructure in the borough bringing together Council assets, not funding, with private sector investment. Plans are well advanced to deploy 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation mobile telephony in the town centre and a wireless broadband solution initially to serve urban areas and business centres. The latter solution which uses 'line of sight' aerials could also supply wireless broadband to rural areas.
- 5.5 In rural areas Colchester Borough Council is working with County Broadband to support and enable their building of a core network in parishes across North East Essex. County Broadband have completed the network build in West Bergholt and are now actively marketing a competitive service offer which ranges from a free community inclusion data plan of 1Mbps up to 64Mbps with Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). Market penetration in West Bergholt is currently in excess of 10%.
- 5.6 County Broadband has presented a build and revenue share proposal to Abberton, Langenhoe and Winstred Parish Councils for their consideration. Grant funding from the Abberton Reservoir Fund has been applied for by these Parish Councils. Deployment plans are also being actively developed in further parishes which are currently subject to commercial confidentiality.

## **6. Transport**

- 6.1 56,000 (32%) of the population of Colchester Borough live in the rural areas. This population is dispersed across the rural areas, with three Rural District Centres of Tiptree, West Mersea and Wivenhoe. Because of the dispersed nature of the population travel by car is more prevalent to access services such health care, employment, education, retail and leisure.
- 6.2 The benefits of rural living area e.g. peace and tranquillity; access to the countryside; sense of local community, need to be balanced against access to services which are not provided and or disappearing from rural areas. Commercial decisions taken remotely can have an impact on the rural community and on an individual's quality of life.

### **Census Data**

- 6.3 Car ownership levels by household are higher in the rural than urban areas. On average in rural wards the percentage of households with no car or van is 12%; in urban wards 25% of households have no car or van. The percentage of households with 2 or more cars in rural areas is on average 49%, compared with 29% in urban wards.
- 6.4 The mode of travel to work is dominated by the car driver– ranging between 61 to 66%, urban wards are lower than this. However, Wivenhoe Cross and Quay are more in line with the urban wards. The other characteristic of rural areas is that working at home is generally second to car driving for travel to work. This corresponds with higher levels of self employed people as a percentage of the economically active population. This links with the need for quality "broadband" network in the rural areas – this is discussed elsewhere in this report.

## **Access to services**

- 6.5 A major problem for those living in the rural areas is isolation and access to essential services, especially for those who do not drive (the young, the old, those with disabilities) or live in a one car household where the car leaves in the morning.
- 6.6 Rural areas struggle to retain facilities as main urban areas become the main location for services and opportunities. This means that travel is needed for some of the basic living essentials e.g. food, health care, work and education. The need to provide local shops and services is highlighted as a priority in many parish plans. Internet deliveries can help overcome food shopping but becomes more an issue in accessing health and education.
- 6.7 As local services disappear pressure is put onto local authorities to provide travel. There are innovative ways in which these can be provided but in general require funding and or local volunteer support to deliver on a continual basis, either to bring the service back to the community or to transport people to the service.

## **Parish Plans, Village Design Statements, Neighbourhood Plans**

- 6.8 A number of plans have been developed over the last few years following consultation with the local community. Maintaining access and the peace and tranquillity of the rural areas are key issues. However there are tensions between these, especially where the local economy relies on visitors.
- 6.9 The detail between different plan areas may vary. Below summarises the main issues and some of the challenges in trying to address them.
- Lack of public transport
    - Access to key facilities e.g. the hospital
    - Frequency and reliability of services
    - Feeling of isolation
    - Commerciality of services
    - Finding an affordable solution
  - Road safety related issues
    - Speeding in rural areas
    - Enforcement of speeding – use of Speedwatch and vehicle activated signs, but would like greater support from the Police
    - 20mph introduction into parts of rural areas
  - Intrusion and damage by heavy goods vehicles
    - Physical damage to the highway – pot holes, damage to verges and footways
    - “Rat running” especially in roads leading to the A12 and A120
    - “Sat nav” systems which lead drivers down unsuitable roads and tracks
  - Protection and maintenance of footpaths (PROW)
    - Local access into the countryside
    - The ability to enjoy the countryside
    - Lack of bridleways
  - Parking
    - Parking levels to support the economy
    - Meeting the need for tourist and visitor demand especially in the Dedham Vale and Mersea Island

- Applying the parking standards for development

## **The Essex Local Transport Plan**

- 6.10 Essex County Council published in June 2011 its third plan. The ECC Local Transport Plan priorities for the rural areas of Essex include:
- Supporting the economy of our historic towns and villages, extensive coastline and varied countryside;
  - Supporting transport to ensure that access is provided to employment, education, healthcare and food shopping;
  - Ensuring that people are able to access important services (including shopping, healthcare, library facilities, etc.), without needing to travel long distances; and
  - Minimising the impact transport has on the local character.
- 6.11 Transport has an important role in meeting the needs of rural areas, but it is important that it does not in turn impinge upon the unique rural character. Strong rural communities are essential to deliver the best quality of life to residents and growth in the Essex economy will be dependent on support for the expansion of rural businesses.

## **7. Isolation Issues for Younger and Older People**

- 7.1 In terms of Younger People, Colchester's Youth Strategy Group (YSG) was set up in 2012 as the borough's consultative body to make recommendations on youth provision in the area. One of its key responsibilities was to identify the needs of young people and set priorities. The priority age group for this is those between 13 - 19.
- 7.2 A workshop held to identify the priorities identified transport as one of the biggest issues for young people in rural areas as respondents said it was impossible to access the town centre in the evenings without relying on their parents for lifts. In addition to this was the cost of the transport available which is prohibitive for some young people and also prevented them from accessing activities the town centre.
- 7.3 Some rural areas are very well served for youth spaces such as youth shelters, football pitches and youth centres. However, it was found that some venues have a policy of not allowing facilities to be hired for young people's activities. In addition, where there are venues available, sometimes activities cannot take place due to the lack of volunteers with adequate training to organise activities and work with young people.
- 7.4 Another gap identified through the group was the lack of information about what activities/events are available to young people. In particular, they were interested in knowing about musical instrument hire, gyms times for their age group, music events and other activities.
- 7.5 As a result of the workshop and the gaps identified, the Youth Strategy Group has agreed the following actions:
- A website to be developed by young people where they can access information on activities and events
  - Volunteer youth work recruitment drive where volunteers will be trained and CRB checked to deliver youth activities across the borough especially in the rural areas
  - Business in the Community will be approached in order to discuss the possibility of developing a community transport scheme for young people that would be accessible and affordable
- 7.6 In terms of older people, It is difficult to define what is meant by older people as some services include 55 years olds in this definition, however, many in that age group would

not define themselves as such. Therefore, the issues described below pertain mostly to the 70 plus age group.

- 7.7 The Older People's Forum meets quarterly to discuss and tackle issues that affect older people. It has identified social isolation as one of the main issues for this group; an issue that is more evident for residents in rural areas as limited access to transport prevents them from accessing social, befriending and other activities.
- 7.8 The CCVS has told us that 85% of residents who access their community bus are older people and last year 46,000 trips were made. This scheme provides excursions, special bookings for hospital appointments and other journeys. There is room for expansion and currently the scheme is working with a GP surgery to enable more residents to access their services.
- 7.9 Grassroots gave us some anecdotal evidence from their work in setting up new and supporting existing older people's groups in the rural areas (currently they are working with 13). They report groups struggling to get the newly retired residents to volunteer in their groups as they do not consider themselves old. For instance, one 94 year old reported she needed volunteers to sit on committees, organise activities, pick up attendees for meetings but she was unable to recruit from the younger, more able residents. In addition, we were told that all people like to get out and as they get older and find driving more daunting this becomes more difficult.
- 7.10 IT and other technology is also a challenge for some members of this group and particularly in the rural areas where access to broadband is not consistently available. Many older people do not have the confidence to participate in on-line banking, send email or surf the web. This, in turn, can leave them feeling more isolated. Technology has moved on at such a pace and has become more complicated that everyday access to other sources of entertainment such as a TV can leave some older people unable to work them. There is a fear that these people will be left behind.
- 7.11 Evidence from Age UK suggests that physical ailments, frailty and feeling vulnerable can make even limited social outings such as a trip to the local shop time consuming and filled with anxiety which puts people off from undertaking them. They also said that anxiety and depression is high amongst this group. Depression can result in further narrowing of social opportunities and this can adversely affect health still further.
- 7.12 Another issue for this group is accessing support. When they are feeling vulnerable many prefer support from someone they know and trust such as a family member or close neighbour and will reject support from others. This has the effect of limiting their support network and in some cases turning their family members into carers.
- 8. Provision of suitable homes for villagers to move into when their families move on and/or as they get less mobile.**
- 8.2 Adopted Council policy directs the majority of new development to the urban area of Colchester and restricts growth in rural areas. In consequence, the overall supply of housing in rural areas is limited and this constrains options for those wishing to downsize in the same village. Policy options on this issue could usefully be considered through the process of adopting a Neighbourhood Plan, given that these are intended to allow local communities to adopt specific policies to meet local needs. This process could allow for debate on the policy option of restricting extensions to village houses to ensure the supply of smaller units, which could attract support from downsizers but might be opposed by those with growing families who would like to avoid moving.

- 8.3 The Council has a clear role in making provision for affordable housing for those in housing need, but the Council has a much more limited role in providing assistance to those already within the open housing market including elderly owner occupiers. In rural areas, the focus has been on adding to the supply of affordable units through the policy of exception sites. Policy ENV2 of the Core Strategy provides that '*development outside but contiguous to village settlement boundaries may be supported where it constitutes an exception to meet identified local affordable housing needs*'. Identification of sites needs to be preceded by a local housing needs survey that establishes the nature and extent of housing need in a village.
- 8.4 This policy accorded with national guidance set out in PPS3. This policy was, however, then replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This amended the approach to increasing the supply of rural housing and provided more support for local choices. Para 54 of the NPPF provides:  
*In rural areas, exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Local planning authorities should in particular consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs.*
- 8.5 There is now more scope for developing local approaches to rural exception sites which could include local needs for units to downsize into if established by a housing needs survey. It is important however, for exception sites to continue to deserve the name. If market housing was permitted to assume too high a percentage of these sites it would raise their value above that viable for affordable units. It is accordingly considered appropriate for the Council to review its rural exception policies in light of new national policy to permit greater flexibility to account for local needs while retaining the principle of targeting preferential housing assistance to those in greatest need.
- 8.6 Like Colchester, Chelmsford is carrying out a focused review of its Local Plan and carried out a consultation on its submission changes from 19 November 2012 – 14 January 2013. Its proposed policy approach to rural exceptions sites seems appropriate to follow, particularly since it would provide for a consistent approach in Essex. The approach reflects Chelmsford's consultation with other authorities and is accordingly consistent with that proposed by the Greater Haven Gateway Housing Partnership. The Chelmsford policy provides that in certain circumstances small, predominantly affordable housing developments to meet local need will be permitted outside but adjoining settlement boundaries if it can be demonstrated that there is a proven need for the number and type of dwellings proposed which cannot be met in any other way and the Council is satisfied that the affordable housing will remain affordable and exclusively available for local needs in perpetuity. The policy ensures that the amount of market housing does not go beyond that required to subsidise the affordable housing.
- 8.7 The process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan will provide parishes and villages with the opportunity to establish levels of need for different groups within the community and identify preferred sites for infill or exception sites.

## **9. More encouragement for the use of redundant farm buildings for small business use**

- 9.1 Current Colchester policy supports the use of redundant farm buildings for small business use. Adopted Development Policy DP9 provides that existing rural buildings can be converted to employment uses, subject to criteria, if they contribute to the local rural economy and help sustain rural communities. The proposed use should be of a small scale that does not harm the rural character of the area.
- 9.2 As with rural housing, policy within the National Planning Policy Framework introduced greater levels of flexibility on employment development in the countryside. Para 28 provides that planning policies should take a 'positive approach to sustainable new development'. This includes support for the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise. The Council will now be reviewing its planning policies to ensure they comply with national guidance and policy for rural employment has been highlighted as a particular area for consideration. One potential issue is that council policies focus on small-scale employment development in rural areas while the NPPF doesn't mention scale as a rural employment development criterion. The NPPF does, however, include the term 'sustainable' and it could be argued that small rather than large-scale employment developments are the most sustainable for rural areas which are not well-served by transport and infrastructure.
- 9.3 Further flexibility for former agricultural buildings is contained in a recent government announcement that in order to help promote rural prosperity and job creation, agricultural buildings will be able to convert to a range of other uses, but excluding residential dwellings. There will be a size restriction and, for conversions above a set size, a prior approval process will be put in place to guard against unacceptable impacts, such as transport and noise.
- 9.4 Evidence gathered for the Local Development Framework process established the presence of a strong rural employment sector in the Borough. 2,318 businesses were recorded in rural wards of Colchester in 2008 employing 14,744 people, which compares to the 2003 figures of 1,986 businesses employing 12,939 people. The share of Colchester's total businesses (strictly, "workplaces") that are located in the rural areas is almost exactly proportionate - varying between 33% and 35% - to its share of the Borough's population. While the Office of National Statistics no longer gathers annual information on rural jobs, detailed information awaited from the 2011 Census will allow us to monitor the current state of local rural employment.

## **10. Colchester Borough Homes Draft Rural Strategy**

- 10.1 It is intended this aspect will be addressed by Gordon Steed from Colchester Borough Homes in his presentation to the Panel.

## **11. Strategic Plan References**

- 11.1 All the themes relate to the vision of the Strategic Plan for Colchester to be the place to live, learn, work and visit. A specific objective concerns delivering high quality and accessible services, and these will also support the Council's priority of 'enabling local communities to help themselves'.

## **12. Publicity Considerations, Financial Implications and Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications**

- 12.1 There is likely to be public interest in the issues addressed in the report as well as certain specific financial implications and Equality, Diversity and Human Rights considerations. Any detailed proposals relating to these matters would need to be the subject of separate

determination by Cabinet or the relevant Portfolio Holder when these associated implications would be the subject of particular consideration.

**13. Equality, Diversity, Human Rights, Consultation, Community Safety Health and Safety or Risk Management Implications**

13.1 There are no significant Equality, Diversity, Human Rights, Consultation, Community Safety, Health and Safety or Risk Management implications.

25 February 2013

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Head of Corporate Management</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Amanda Chidgey</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Work Programme 2012/13</b>		<b>☎ 282227</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	Not applicable		

This report sets out the current Work Programme 2012/2013 for the Policy Review and Development Panel.

## 1. Decisions Required

- 1.1 The Policy Review and Development Panel is asked to note the current situation regarding the Panel's work programme for 2012/13.

## 2. Alternative options

- 2.1 This function forms part of the Panel's Terms of Reference and, as such, no alternative options are presented.

## 3. Introduction

- 3.1 The terms of reference for the Panel involve reviewing and making recommendations on strategies and policies at the request of the Cabinet or a portfolio holder and making recommendations back to Cabinet for decision. In addition the panel can proactively identify issues requiring review and, accordingly, seek Cabinet's agreement as to whether and how they should be examined.

- 3.2 The Panel's work programme will evolve as the Municipal Year progresses and items of business are commenced and concluded. At each meeting of the Panel, the opportunity is taken for the work programme to be reviewed and, if necessary, amended according to current circumstances.

## 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The Work Programme has been updated since the last meeting of the Panel held on 14 January 2013 to reflect the decisions that were made at the meeting and current circumstances.

- 4.2 Arrangements are in hand to reconvene the 20mph Task and Finish Group but no date for a meeting has yet been agreed.

- 4.3 The Technology and Improvements in Community Engagement Task and Finish Group has concluded its work and a report has been submitted to Cabinet for consideration at the meeting on 6 March 2013.

- 4.4 The Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal Task and Finish Group is due to meet again on 19 March 2013 to assist with the implementation arrangements for the

Borough wide food waste collection service. The Group is therefore not in a position to submit its final recommendations to this meeting of the Panel as had been anticipated.

## **5. Strategic Plan References**

- 5.1 The Council recognises that effective local government relies on establishing and maintaining the public's confidence, and that setting high standards of self governance provides a clear and demonstrable lead. Effective governance, of which the review and development of policy are parts, underpins the implementation and application of all aspects of the Council's work.

## **7. Standard References**

- 7.1 There are no particular references to publicity or consultation considerations; or financial; equality, diversity and human rights; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

**Policy Review and Development Panel  
WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13**

<u>18 June 2012</u>		<u>6 August 2012</u> <i>Meeting theme 'Localism'</i>	<u>10 September 2012</u> <i>Meeting theme 'Encouraging Enterprise'</i>
<b>Policy Initiatives</b>		Localising Council Tax // Support from Government – Initial Outline of Options	
<b>Review of Corporate Policies</b>			Economic Development Strategy 2010-2015
<b>Task and Finish Groups</b>			

<u>5 November 2012</u>		<u>20 November 2012</u>	<u>14 January 2013</u> <i>Meeting theme 'Town Issues'</i>
<b>Policy Initiatives</b>			
<b>Review of Corporate Policies</b>	Localism	Equality and Diversity // Annual Report	Better Town Centre Programme // Update
<b>Task and Finish Groups</b>		Older Persons' Accommodation Task and Finish Group //Final Recommendations	

	<b>25 February 2013</b> <i>Meeting theme 'Rural Issues'</i>		
<b>Policy Initiatives</b>			
<b>Review of Corporate Policies</b>			
<b>Task and Finish Groups</b>			

<b>Task and Finish Groups</b>	<b>Membership 2012-13</b>
Future of the Magistrates' Courts	Councillors Davies, Frame, G. Oxford, Sutton, L. Sykes J. Young
Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal	Councillors Cope, Cory, Lissimore, B. Oxford, Willetts and J Young
Older Persons Accommodation	Councillors Kimberley, Lewis, Lilley, Mudie, B Oxford and L Sykes
Technology and Improvements in Community Engagement	Councillors Cope, Davies, Hazell, T Higgins, Lilley and G Oxford
20mph Task and Finish Group	Councillors Harrington, Lilley, G. Oxford, L Sykes, Parish Councillor Gili-Ross.

**ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED:**

Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal // Final Recommendations

