

**WEST CHESHIRE TOGETHER LSP NETWORK CONFERENCE**  
**Friday 20 November 2009**  
**Ellesmere Port**

**Background Information on the Consultation Event**

Cheshire West & Chester Council is about to embark on a major consultation exercise on the emerging Core Strategy, Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Transport Plan (LTP) for West Cheshire. These consultations are being undertaken jointly as the three strategies need to be closely aligned, reflecting their influence on many aspects of the lives of Cheshire West & Chester's residents, visitors and businesses. The Sustainable Community Strategy provides the overarching vision for the future wellbeing of the borough, the Core Strategy sets out the physical means by which this vision can be realised and the Local Transport Plan sets the future transport priorities.

The Issues and Options Report is the first stage in the preparation of a Core Strategy for Cheshire West & Chester. The Report sets out a spatial portrait of the Borough, identifies a vision and key objectives that will help to achieve the vision, highlights key issues and sets out a number of options that could be followed to address these issues.

This Issues and Options Report has been prepared using information gained from the extensive consultation that has already been undertaken by the Council on;

- the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy,
- the Core Strategy Topic Papers which were prepared and consulted on in the summer,
- a variety of other consultation events and
- the work carried out by the predecessor authorities.

The Issues and Options report is only the start of the process to prepare the Core Strategy. Our consultation's purpose is to gain people's comments on whether the issues that have been identified are the right ones, whether the options to address the issues are correct and whether there are alternatives, and which options should be pursued. The feedback that is gained from this consultation will help to shape the Core Strategy Preferred Options report in which we will identify, from all of the options available, the route that the Council is going to follow with its Core Strategy.

The Sustainable Community Strategy is the key document for *West Cheshire Together* (the Local Strategic Partnership): it will provide the overarching shared vision and priorities for future social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Borough for the next 10 years (2010-2020). The strategy will describe how people who live in, work in and visit Cheshire West want it to develop over time. Its purpose is to enable Cheshire West & Chester Council, in partnership with other agencies and local people, through the *West Cheshire Together* partnership, to discharge its responsibilities for promoting the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area and providing community leadership. The consultation focuses on the 'Big Issues' to be addressed for the future wellbeing of our borough and asks if the ones identified are correct.

A Local Transport Plan is a document which sets out a council's objectives, strategy, delivery programme and performance indicators for taking forward its transport priorities. The new Plan needs to contain both a longer-term integrated transport strategy and a shorter term implementation plan. The Plan also needs to align with the five national transport goals (economic growth; climate change; better safety, security and health; greater equality of opportunity and quality of life). Authorities are free to consider the relative importance of these goals for their area and can choose to amend then or add additional local objectives as appropriate. The authority is therefore currently taking this opportunity to undertake an initial round of consultation and soundings to help explore issues and concerns relating to transport.

The Issues and Options Report and Sustainable Community Strategy will be made available for public consultation from 11 November 2009 to 13 January 2010 which is longer than the 6-week statutory minimum needed for the Core Strategy. This is to ensure that as many people as possible have a chance to comment and get involved in the process, particularly as the consultation includes the busy Christmas period. The Council's Local Transport Plan has also been made available for public consultation during this same period (although the Local Transport Plan consultation began in mid-October as it is required to undergo a 12-week consultation). During this time, every effort will be made to ensure that consultation opportunities are linked so as to avoid consultation overload.

Following on from the consultation exercise, the Sustainable Community Strategy will be prepared and it is intended that the final strategy will be adopted and published by the Council in February 2010.

All three documents will be available for consultation until 5pm on 13 January 2010 and can be viewed on the Council's website at [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk). Anyone can respond to either the individual questionnaires around the three documents, or the single shorter joint questionnaire. Responses can be made via e-mail or people can write to the Council with comments. Contact details for further information or to request a copy of the document are given below:

<b>Document Name</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>
Core Strategy	01244 973887	<a href="mailto:spatialplanning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">spatialplanning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a>
Sustainable Community Strategy	01244 972370	<a href="mailto:lyn.raynor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">lyn.raynor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a>
Local Transport Plan	0300 123 7036	<a href="mailto:ltip@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">ltip@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a>