

WEST CUMBRIA MASTERPLAN

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Elaine Woodburn

LEAD OFFICER: Fergus McMorrow

REPORT AUTHOR: Fergus McMorrow

Summary: The purpose of the report is to seek Executive agreement to the main policies being developed in the Masterplan

Recommendation: That members agree to:

1. Support the key policies proposed to be included in the Masterplan
2. Final agreement to the content of the detailed section is delegated to the Director of Economic Prosperity & Sustainability in consultation with the Leader of the Council

Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: The West Cumbria Master Plan is a critical document in delivering our corporate objectives. Indeed, due to the importance of the Master Plan in setting a joint direction for the area the Council will wish to ensure that its own corporate plan is adjusted to support Master Plan delivery

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): Delivery of the plan will have a major impact on these areas as it will guide the economic future of the area which will influence success in all our statutory objectives.

Financial and human resource implications: The Draft Master Plan is proposing major transformational programmes for the areas with a cost of £2.2bn. This will average a spend of £200m per annum. Ongoing work will be required to secure this. The intention is that significant funding will come from National and Regional partners. Public Sector expenditure will need to lever large amounts of private sector investment to deliver the objectives.

The Council will need to align its spending and priorities to the delivery of the joint objectives.

There will be major implications for council resources. Even where the Council is not delivering itself the council provides important inputs to the development process for all implementers. We will need to consider how we can put in place measures to ensure that the local authorities capacities do not become brakes on the process of transformational change.

This issue has been raised with the consultants for consideration when finalising their delivery proposals.

Project & Risk Management: Delivery arrangements are being considered as part of the 'Corporate Plan' element of the report. A draft of this is attached as Annex two. However this element of the work requires considerable further

development

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** Not at this stage although decisions emanating from it in the future will be
- **Ward:** N/A

Other Ward Implications: As an overall strategy it will affect all wards

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The West Cumbrian Strategic Forum, chaired by the Secretary of State for the Department of Trade and Industry, requested that West Cumbria partners prepare a spatial master plan to guide future investment in the transformation of West Cumbria
- 1.2 This initiative is a response to the impact that nuclear decommissioning is expected to have in our area, it will inform the activities of all partners including prioritisation of their resource plans.
- 1.3 The exercise is being project managed by Cumbria Vision and is funded by the North West Development Agency and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. Grant Thornton were commissioned to develop the plan in spring 2006 with local partners.

2. THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN

- 2.1 A draft master plan has been prepared which is the subject of discussion and negotiation between partners. This is a very lengthy document. Detailed comments have been submitted and parts of the document are subject to alteration and further development
- 2.2 The main policy directions including in the Master Plan have been the subject to wider public consultation and much discussion between partners. There is general agreement on these. For consideration by members the first sections of the draft document which sets out the overall approach is attached to this report as Annex 1. A full copies of the current draft are available for inspection in the Members Room.

3. TIMETABLE

- 3.1 It has always been intended that the document would be presented to Ministers in order to feed in to the next public sector spending review. The current plan is to complete the document by the end of March including wider consultation and partner buy in and present it to Ministers as soon as a meeting can be arranged after that.
- 3.2 The draft will be the subject of a further round of comments closing at the end of this month. In parallel with this process of consultation further development of the sections on spatial planning and the delivery plan (described as Corporate Plan) are taking place.

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Executive are asked whether they support the key policies of the Master plan as set out in the attached documents.
- 4.2 The Executive may wish to
 - i) Fully support the key proposals as set out in Annex 1
 - ii) Support the proposals subject to any amendments wish to put forward
 - iii) Reject the direction now being proposed
- 4.3 It is recommended that the key proposals in Annex 1 are supported. However, this should be subject to the final agreement of the details that underpin these proposals.

List of Appendices

- Annex 1 – Executive Summary
- Annex 2 – Corporate Planning

List of Background Documents:

List of Consultees:

The draft has been subject to significant consultation at various stages.
This report has been the subject of Consultation with: