

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2007 – 2010

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Geoff Blackwell
LEAD OFFICER: Mike Tichford

REPORT AUTHOR: John Hughes

Summary and Recommendation:

The report sets out a revised 3 year programme of work for the Council's planning policy documents known as the Local Development Scheme.

Members are recommended to approve the Scheme for submission to government by the end of March 2007 and to approve the financing and expenditure as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As part of the new Local Development Framework (LDF) introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the Council is required to maintain an up to date work programme for the production of planning policy documents. This is the Local Development Scheme and we need to revise the version approved last year and have a viable programme for the period 2007 – 2010.
- 1.2 It will be important to have a work programme which accords with the priorities for the Borough outlined in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report (accessible on the Council's web-site) and which is deliverable on the basis of resources available.

2. THE PROPOSED 2007 – 2010 PROGRAMME

- 2.1 Much of last year's effort was to get the Local Plan formally adopted before the July deadline. This was achieved and guarantees at least a 3 year "shelf life" for its policies and proposals before the new style documents of the LDF are required to take over. The important thing now is to make progress with the principal items required for the LDF which are the **Statement of Community Involvement** (see separate report on this agenda) the **Core Strategy** and **Allocations for Housing, Employment and Town Centres**. There is also a piece of work required to meet a

deficiency in the Local Plan which must be prioritised – the **Open Space and Recreation DPD** (Development Plan Document) with work begun on the initial audit of facilities in association with the Leisure and Environmental Services Department.

- 2.2 These items can be produced by the in-house planning policy team subject to successful recruitment to establishment strength (yet to be achieved). At the same time the Council's priority for regeneration requires a number of other site or area-targetted documents to be produced over the next 3 years which will probably require levels of external service to meet the proposed timetable. These include Area Action Plans for **Whitehaven Town Centre and Harbourside** and **West Whitehaven** and shorter Supplementary-style documents for the **Pow Beck** Regeneration Site in Whitehaven and the regeneration programmes at **Millom, Egremont** and **Cleator Moor**. The West Whitehaven AAP will cover issues related to Housing Market Renewal, the Rhodia site clean up, the Coastal Fringe and Pow Beck Valley.
- 2.3 There are 3 other Supplementary Planning Documents envisaged involving partnership arrangements for production: a joint Copeland/Allerdale/County Council item on ways of achieving **higher quality in housing development** (particularly in terms of housing market renewal and at higher densities), and 2 joint Cumbria Districts/County Council items – one on **Wind Energy Development** (currently out to consultation and reported to the Executive on 5 September 2006 the other on **Landscape Character**.
- 2.4 The policy team also have to prepare the **Annual Monitoring Report** each year which is a fairly substantial document in its own right and for the preparation and updating of **The Proposals Map** and the rest of the web-site content.
- 2.5 The new planning regime requires local authorities to prepare and maintain an Evidence Base to underpin the production of planning documents. Priority items for this are:
- An updated Urban Capacity Study
 - Research on Planning Obligations
 - A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
 - A Sustainability Assessment Framework
 - An Appropriate Assessment Framework
 - Conservation Area Reviews

At this stage the planning policy team has begun work on the first two items and a joint 4 Cumbrian authorities partnership has commissioned the third which is shortly to be delivered. In addition the housing strategy

team's Action Plans and currently commissioned housing stock survey will provide additional evidence material.

3. FINANCING THE 2007 – 2010 PROGRAMME

- 3.1 Details of the estimated expenditure required to deliver the proposed LDS and associated Evidence Base are set out in the table below together with an indication of how this is to be financed. £40k has been previously approved by Members as part of the Council's Revenue Budget for 2007/08. Approval is now sought to utilise £39 of an earmarked reserve set aside as a result of carry forwards from 2005/06 (for the Local Plan printing/web-site costs). In addition £42 will be made available from the Planning Delivery Grant.

To be financed from	Amount £K
Planning Policy 2005/06 earmarked	39
Planning Policy requested carry forward	29
Planning Policy 2007/08	40
Planning Delivery Grant	42
TOTAL	150

Estimated Expenditure	Amount £K
Local Plan printing/website version	15
Other internally produced documents	15
Externally sourced documents	90
Priority Evidence Base items	30
TOTAL	150

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The LDS is a statutory requirement which outlines the Council's work programme for planning policy documents over the next three years. It will be a principal means by which the government will measure the Council's progress with implementing the requirements of the new planning regime and thereby a portion of Planning Delivery Grant it receives.

5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

- 5.1 The financial and expenditure implications are set out in 3.1 above. In terms of human resources the programme assumes that we are

successful in recruiting at least 1 FTE of the 1.5 FTEs currently vacant in the Planning Policy team establishment.

6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The programme contains a number of milestones which targets the government will expect us to achieve. Failure to do so will affect the level of Planning Delivery Grant and/or further action by way of Best Value designation.

7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

- 7.1 The LDS is a primary document for managing the policy work in section 3.3.5 of the new Corporate Plan. The planning policy documents will also assist in delivering many other Corporate Plan objectives including ones related to employment, environment and transport.

List of Background Documents: A copy of the draft Local Development Scheme is available for reference in the Members' Room

List of Consultees: Corporate Team, Steven Tickner, Tony Pomfret

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	Will be a theme for all the Development Documents to address.
Impact on Sustainability	Planning legislation requires that all documents are prepared with integral Sustainability and Strategic Environmental Appraisal.
Impact on Rural Proofing	Will be incorporated in the appropriate policy documents
Health and Safety Implications	Will be incorporated in the appropriate policy document.
Project and Risk Management	See 6.1 above
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Not directly affected
Children and Young Persons Implications	Policy documents will require assessment.
Human Rights Act Implications	Policy document will require assessment

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision YES