

COPELAND'S LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2008

Item 4

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Mrs C Giel
LEAD OFFICER: Julie Betteridge
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Summary and Recommendation:

This report relates to the formal adoption process for the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) – the programme of planning policy documents to be produced over the next three years.

The recommendation is that the Working Party approves the draft LDS for submission to the Executive and Full Council with a recommendation for its formal adoption

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme or LDS is a statutorily required document setting out the Council's work programme for the production of planning policy documents under the new planning regime. Members of the Working Party will recall that at its last meeting on 12th August we looked at the general requirements for the programme and examined a draft scheme which was approved for submission to Government Office North West for informal comment. The intention was that if GONW and the Planning Inspectorate were reasonably happy with the programme in principle we could proceed through the Executive and Full Council to formal adoption in December.

2. ADOPTION PROCESS

- 2.1 We received a response from GONW on 30th September with the main criticism relating to the length of time being proposed for production of the Core Strategy – the target date for Adoption, February 2012, was thought to be "unambitious". The LDF Liaison Officer felt that the Council was not displaying an "awareness that it is important to have an up-to-date development plan strategy, and/or willingness to make it a priority" and that "this is worrying in view of the need to take forward the Energy Coast master plan, including the establishment of a properly planned housing supply, in a strategic way". There were also some suggestions about making the text easier to understand and improving the section on risk analysis.

- 2.2 It was thought best to meet the Government Office Liaison Officer again with our consultants, Scott Wilson, down in Manchester to discuss amendments so that we could quickly agree a way forward and still maintain the adoption timetable. This we did on 16th October and a revised programme was agreed in principle. A Gantt Chart showing the revisions is attached to this report and a copy of the full LDS will be sent out to Members on Friday this week. The changes to the document itself are fairly straightforward – editing and moving some sections forward to make it more understandable (it is hoped) to the average reader and amending all the schedules and proformas to match the dates in the Gantt Chart.
- 2.3 Members are being asked to discuss the proposed revision and to make a recommendation to the Executive meeting on 11th November and Full Council meeting on 2nd December for formal Adoption of the LDS
- 3. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)**
- 3.1 A report on resources underpinning the Local Development Framework will be available at the meeting. This will contain greater detail than the sections in the LDS document.

Appendix A LDS Document – To follow
Appendix B Gantt Chart