

Pre-Submission Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD

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WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?

These are the principal planning policy documents of the Council's Local Development Framework. As such they will be an essential means of implementing the Copeland Partnership Plan, the Council's Corporate Plans and other important social, economic and environmental strategies in the Borough over the next 15 years or so.

WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?

The Executive is being requested to make a recommendation to Full Council to approve two major policy documents to go out to consultation. They are submitted to the Executive with a recommendation to support from the Council's LDF Working Party which has looked in detail at the documents and the extensive material which supports them.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Executive endorses the Pre-Submission Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD together with supporting documents and recommends that Full Council approves the overall package to go out to consultation.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As noted in the companion report on this agenda (Revised LDS) the Copeland LDF is the Council's portfolio of planning policy documents which are to replace the Copeland Local Plan. The two principal documents in the LDF are the Core Strategy and the Development Management Policies DPD (or Development Planning Document). Like the Local Plan, they relate only to the area of the Borough which the Council has planning authority responsibilities i.e. Copeland outside the National Park and they are designed to cover a 15 year period to 2027.

- 1.2 The Core Strategy deals with the big strategic planning issues facing the Borough and sets out an over-arching Vision, priority Objectives, development principles and a series of high-level spatial policies. It includes a Monitoring Framework showing responsibilities for implementation and targets to measure progress over the plan period. The other main chapter sets out how the policies will be implemented on the ground within the 6 Locality Areas of the Borough.
- 1.3 The Development Management Policies DPD concentrates on the Council's more detailed requirements for development proposals when it considers planning applications. The DPD's policies deal with design standards and the safeguarding of general amenity, safety and environmental issues and seek to deliver sustainable development.
- 1.4 Together with the Site Allocations DPD which is currently in preparation the two documents will assist implementation of the Energy Coast Master Plan (as refreshed by the new work on a West Cumbria Economic Blueprint 2012), Copeland's Community Strategy, "The Copeland Partnership Plan", The Council's Corporate Plans, its Regeneration Delivery Plan and its Housing Strategy 2011-15. They will also be a major delivery vehicle for the work of the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and the strategic context for the development of Neighbourhood Plans as envisaged by the new Localism Act provisions.

2. PROCESS FOR ADOPTION

- 2.1 The documents now presented are the "Pre-Submission Versions" and have been prepared in the light of responses to two previous rounds of consultation. The first of these was an Issues and Options report in 2009 followed a year later by the Preferred Options Report.
- 2.2 Subject to Full Council approval, the Pre-Submission Versions are to go out to an extensive round of stakeholder and community consultation (May/June) prior to formal Submission to the Secretary of State. The LDF Regulations require the Council to assess all formal expressions of support or objections to its Pre-Submission Versions and to propose as many amendments as it can to accommodate objections. The amended versions and all unresolved objections are then to be submitted to the Secretary of State (October) who will appoint an independent Planning Inspector to undertake a public Examination of the documents and all issues raised (February 2013). The Inspector will make a report of his/her findings on the Examination business and the Inspector's recommendations will be binding on the Council (May 2013).

Subsequently the Council will formally adopt the final versions as policy (August 2013). NB dates indicated are approximates in line with the Revised LDS 2012 (please see separate report on this agenda) and are, of course, subject to change dependent on the amount and complexity of business generated for the Examination.

3. SUPPORTING MATERIAL

3.1 The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD are supported by a number of companion documents:

- **Topic Papers:** There are two main topic papers on Economic Development Land Supply and Housing which summarise the policy inputs and evidence that have informed the Core Strategy approach to these subjects. They act as a bridge between the longer reports and studies which make up the LDF evidence base, which the general reader may find too detailed, and the limited background coverage that can be included in the Core Strategy itself. In particular they explain how the projections and growth scenarios have been developed and applied in these two principal policy areas. The Strategy for Infrastructure sets out the broad conclusions of an overall audit of infrastructure and services in the Borough (this audit is a larger item in the Evidence Base entitled Infrastructure Deficit Plan) and explores the needs and mechanisms for delivering improvements in association with new development. Two additional topic papers explain the wider context of Core Strategy production: The Core Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) paper explains the relationship of the Core Strategy to the North West RSS which is scheduled for revocation in the next few months. The Sub-Regional Spatial Planning Context paper reviews the coordination of Copeland's Core Strategy development with County, National Park and Allerdale spatial strategies.
- **Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment:** A further two legal requirements of all planning policy documents. The first involves a detailed assessment of all the policies in both main documents to identify whether they are likely to move Copeland towards or away from greater sustainability in the long term. The second looks at the likely effects of the policies on sites of international biodiversity importance over a wide area including off-shore territorial waters.
- **Evidence Base studies and reports:** There is a long list of material which has been specifically commissioned or undertaken by the

Council's Planning Policy team to underpin the Core Strategy. These are available from the Planning Policy team as Background Documents and most are already on the Council's web-site. The list appears as Appendix 6 in the Revised Local Development Scheme which is the subject of a separate report on this Agenda.

- Report on Consultation: To be prepared in due course as a review of all stages to date.

5. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

- 5.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: Proposals in the report represent a robust and sound approach to ensuring the Council's statutory responsibilities are properly discharged
- 5.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: No further comment.
- 5.3 EIA Comments: The proposals in this report will have a positive impact in promoting equalities in all Copeland communities

6. HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?

- 6.1 The approach to project management including risks is set out in the Council's Local Development Scheme which is the subject of a separate report on this Executive meeting Agenda.

7. WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?

- 7.1 Again please refer to the Local Development Scheme 2012 Revision and in particular the Gantt Chart on the final page which sets out the milestones for document delivery.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD
Appendix B – Supporting Material – Topic Papers, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulation Assessment

Available on request in either paper or electronic copy