

Local Development Scheme Revision 2012

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor George Clements
LEAD OFFICER: Julie Betteridge, Head of Regeneration and Community
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WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?

The Copeland Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out a schedule of all the planning policy documents which will form the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) together with a programme for their preparation and adoption. The documents are 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 FULL COUNCIL?

These are major items of policy which require Full Council approval. They have been developed by the Local Development Framework Working Party and come to Council with the Executive's recommendation to approve.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive recommends to Full Council that it should approve the revised Copeland LDS and that it should be incorporated into the Council's Development Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the formal work programme which sets out how the Council will prepare the portfolio of documents that will make up the Copeland Local Development Framework and eventually replace Copeland Local Plan. It is a statutory requirement which explains the reasoning behind the choice of documents, how they will be produced, the timetable for producing them – including key milestones, and the resources required. It provides the starting point for the local community or any interested party to find out what the current planning policies are for the area and how we intend to replace them in the future.
- 1.2 The current LDS was approved by Full Council in June 2011.
- 1.3 The LDS is no longer required to be submitted to the Secretary of State for formal acceptance but it is still a statutory requirement so the Council has to

inform the DCLG of any revisions it sees fit to make and to keep an up to date version as part of the Development Plan for the Borough.

2. REVISED CONTENT

- 2.1 Progress with the preparation of documents as envisaged in the June 2011 LDS was delayed because of delays involved with the West Cumbria Economic Blueprint commission. Nevertheless, there have been positive benefits from this: not only has it allowed time to produce the Blueprint itself but it has also given an opportunity to update most of the LDF Evidence Base to a post 2007/8 position. In so doing it has allowed a more valid set of socio-economic forecasts and growth scenarios to be developed together with a reassessment of development needs associated with things like nuclear new-build, infrastructure planning and investment and housing viability.
- 2.2 The LDF Working Party included a reassessment of the LDS in its programme of work over the last 6 months and agreed new dates for the existing schedule of documents in October. This forms the basis of the Revised LDS now put forward for Council approval. There are two additional items, however, which could usefully be added to this year's work programme. Both are seen as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) i.e. primarily design-based Development Briefs setting out criteria for new developments and for managing activities.
- South Whitehaven SPD relating to Woodhouse and Greenbank together with a strategic housing site south of the Woodhouse estate and east of High Road (subject to the latter proposal in the draft Core Strategy being approved by the Council)
 - West Whitehaven SPD relating to land west of High Road incorporating the former Marchon site and the Colourful Coast Initiative area including Haig and Saltom pits
- 2.3 The SPDs would be similar to the Pow Beck SPD (already adopted) and the Whitehaven Town Centre and Harbourside SPD (currently in train) and together with these other SPDs they would complete the Whitehaven Regeneration Programme's plan-making requirements.

3. FINANCING PRODUCTION OF THE LDF

- 3.1 The production costs of the current LDF programme have already been agreed by the Council and the programme is proceeding within budget. The overall delay in the programme does, however, mean that the most expensive items i.e. the Core Strategy/Development Management Policies DPD Examination and Inspector's report plus all costs of the Site Allocations DPD are now scheduled to be defrayed in the next two financial years 2012/13 and

2013/14 which will require protection of the Reserves set aside for the purpose during those years.

- 3.2 The additional costs associated with the two new SPDs can be absorbed within the existing budget because a) SPDs do not require public Examination and Inspector time – they are subject only to the Council's own procedures b) their costs in the main are confined to officer and Member time and c) some savings will accrue as a result of additional Evidence Base material coming via the West Cumbria Economic Blueprint commission – the full impact of this is yet to be established..

4. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: Proposals in the report represent a robust and sound approach to ensuring that the Council's statutory responsibilities are properly discharged
- 4.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: No further comment
- 4.3 EIA Comments: The proposals in this report will have a positive impact in promoting equalities in all Copeland communities
- 4.4 Other consultee comments: none received

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

- 5.1 The document itself sets out how the scheme is to be managed and the risks are specifically covered in Chapter 11.

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

- 6.1 The document includes a Gantt chart on the last page which sets out the milestone stages in document production ending in formal Adoption by the Council.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Copy of the proposed LDS 2012 Revision document