

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting15th March 2007

1. Title of Item/Report

Second Revised Local Development Scheme

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report detailing revisions to the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which set out detailed arrangements for the production of Local Development Documents (LDDs) which will comprise the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF). The revisions were necessary to;

- Delete those documents which had been completed and adopted,
- To insert new documents
- To revise the timetable for the production of the Core Strategy, Regeneration and Environment Development Plan Documents (DPDs) in accordance with current resources.

It was explained that the LDS was a three-year rolling programme for the production of the documents that would comprise the LDF. It identified each document that was to be prepared with a detailed timetable for the production of that document.

As part of the management of the process, the Council was required to produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to assess, amongst other things, the Council's progress in meeting the commitments set out in the LDS and, if progress had not been made as anticipated, to explain why.

Members noted that in December 2006, the Annual Monitoring Report 2005/6 was reported to Planning Committee. It showed that between April 2005 and March 2006 a number of documents had progressed in accordance with the LDS timetable:

- Alteration No.1 to Adopted Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan was adopted in March 2006.
- Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in March 2006
- Core Strategy DPD Issues and Options and the Conservation and Historic Environment Folder SPD were progressing in line in line with the target dates contained in the LDS.
- Boathouse Lane Planning and Design Brief and Parking Provision for New Developments were both on schedule with their consultation periods.

However, the Regeneration DPD was identified as unlikely to meet the target date set out in the LDS.

Since March 2006, progress had been made on a number of documents:

- Boathouse Lane Planning and Design Brief SPD was adopted in June 2006
- Parking Provision in New Developments was adopted in November 2006, advertised in January 2007 and is currently within the 3-month period when a High Court challenge can be made.
- Conservation and Historic Environment Folder was adopted in January 2007, was advertised in February 2007 and is within the 3-month period when a High Court challenge can be made.

However, there had been some slippage in progress on both the Core Strategy and the Regeneration DPDs. This was the result of a variety of factors.

Stockton was not the only authority to be experiencing slippage in its LDS timetable. A letter from GO-NE dated 6th December 2006 indicated that this was the case. Consequently, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced that it wished to improve the reliability of the LDS so that it became the definitive programme management document for LDF production.

As from 1 April 2007, the LDS was to be departed from only in exceptional circumstances or as agreed in response to annual monitoring. The letter informed local authorities that DCLG was giving them an opportunity to get it right for the forthcoming year. GO-NE and PINS must agree any alterations to the LDS in advance. GO-NE had also indicated that LDS timetables revised at this time would be the one against which eligibility for future Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) on plan making would be assessed. This year, PDG was assessed on an authority's original LDS, which had to be submitted in March 2005. This was considered unfair by many authorities that had agreed amendments to their original documents.

For these reasons, it is considered opportune to review Stockton's LDS. The revised LDS was provided to Members as an appendix to the report. The documents affected by the revisions were:

- Core Strategy DPD.
- Regeneration DPD.
- Environment DPD.

In addition one new SPD would be added to the timetable for Greater North Shore.

In summary the changes were as follows:

Core Strategy

- Consultation on Preferred Options - September to October 2007
- Submission of Core Strategy to Secretary of State – May 2008
- Consultation on Core Strategy - May to June 2008
- Public Examination - February 2009
- Receipt of Inspector's report - August 2009
- Adoption - October 2009

Regeneration DPD

- Consultation on Issues and Options – September to October 2007
- Consultation on Preferred Options – May to June 2008
- Submission of Regeneration DPD to Secretary of State – January 2009
- Consultation on Regeneration DPD – January to February 2009
- Public Examination August 2009
- Receipt of Inspector's report February 2010
- Adoption April 2010

Environment DPD

- Consultation on Issues and Options – January to February 2008
 - Consultation on Preferred Options - August to September 2008
 - Submit Environment DPD to Secretary of State June 2009
 - Consultation on Submission Environment DPD – June to July 2009
 - Public Examination January 2010
 - Inspector's Report July 2010
 - Adoption August 2010
- SPD7 Greater North Shore

This was a new Supplementary Planning Document to be added to the programme. Its timetable would be:

- Start of Preparation and Sustainability Appraisal March 2007
- Draft Consultation period April -May 2008
- Consideration of representations - June to August 2008
- Adoption and Publication - September 2008

The following completed documents were deleted from the LDS:

- LDD1 Statement of Community Involvement Completed,
- SPD3 Parking Provision in New Developments,
- SPD4 Conservation Areas and Historic Environment Folder
- SPD5 Boathouse Lane Planning and Design Brief.

The revised LDS had been submitted to PINS via GO-NE. Once they had confirmed acceptance of the revision, the document then became the official project management plan for progressing the Local Development Framework in the next year. PINS may make recommendations for minor alterations to the timetable in relation to those activities in which they play a part; the date of Public Examinations or the production of Inspectors' Reports.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. the contents of this report be noted.
2. the amendments to the timetables of individual LDDs and the addition of an SPD for Greater North Shore be agreed
3. the further stages in agreeing the revised timetable with Government Office for the North East (GO-NE) and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) be noted.
4. officers be delegated to make minor amendments to the timetable required by GO-NE and PINS.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Planning and Compensation Act 2004 required each local authority to prepare a Local Development Scheme which was a public statement of the local planning authority's programme for the production of local development documents. The LDS should set out complete timelines for the production of all documents comprising the Local Development Framework, from evidence base to adoption. Schemes should be revised as necessary either as a result of the annual monitoring report or because there was a need to revise and/or prepare new local development documents.

A number of the documents identified in Stockton's Revised Local Development Scheme dated March 2006 had been completed and needed to be removed from the LDS, a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Greater North Shore needs to be added to the timetable, whilst remaining documents needed to have their timetables reviewed. It was therefore opportune to revise the LDS at this time.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not applicable

Proper Officer
19 March 2007