

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting30th August 2007

1. Title of Item/Report

Core Strategy Development Plan Document Preferred Options - Local Development Framework

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that informed members of further comments received from Government Office for the North East (GO-NE) in relation to the Core Strategy DPD Preferred Options. The comments were based on some guidance, published in June by the Planning Inspectorate, which reflected the lessons learnt in examining DPDs to date. The guidance sought to ensure that DPDs were found to be sound at examination.

It was explained that the comments from GONE did not undermine the main thrust of the Council's Preferred Options for the Core Strategy. The main comments, in addition to editorial suggestions, focused on

- Consistency: ensuring that all the policies are clear and consistent in their
- relationship with each other;
- Local distinctiveness: not just repeating national and regional planning guidance;
- Inclusion of sufficient detail: to provide a meaningful spatial strategy, whilst remaining strategic
- Avoiding repetition: the plan will be read as a whole, and therefore repetition in both Core Strategy policies and Development Management policies, and cross referencing between policies is not necessary
- Strengthening links with the Sustainability Appraisal (SA): including text to say how the various options/policies perform against the SA.

At their meeting on 31 July 2007, the LDF Member Steering Group agreed that the comments of GO-NE should be incorporated into the Preferred Options, and that the amended version should be placed before Cabinet, as an item for information, prior to public consultation. An amended copy was provided to Members.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the report be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

There was a statutory duty for all local planning authorities to adopt and keep under review the development plan for their respective areas. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Core Strategy is a development plan document that will set out the Council's vision and spatial strategy for meeting known and anticipated development requirements to 2021.

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development frameworks states the "Local planning authorities should prepare development plan documents taking into consideration the process of continuous community involvement.....and should front load the preparation of development plan documents by facilitating early involvement and securing inputs from the community and all stakeholders".

This report puts before Cabinet the amended version of the Preferred Options of the Core Strategy DPD, for information, prior to public consultation.

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
03 April 2007