

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting24th April 2008

1. Title of Item/Report

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) - Further Proposed Changes
Consultation

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report that set out for members changes to the RSS and the Council's response. Members noted that, due to the consultation period expiring on the 2nd April, Council officers had submitted the comments detailed in the report. Cabinet was therefore asked to note and endorse the reports contents

The number of net additional dwellings in the region, over the period 2004 –2021, was to be increased from 112,000 to 128,900. This change was considered necessary because of revised population projections, which identified international migration as a main factor in sustaining housing growth. Cabinet noted that these figures did not represent a ceiling and LDFs could make a case for a higher figure as appropriate. It was envisaged that sufficient brownfield land had been identified to accommodate this increased scale of growth and no major greenfield allocations would be necessary.

The revised regional figure would result in an additional 36,325 for the Tees Valley sub-region an increase of 2,465 in the proposed changes (May 2007), see table 1 below. This increase was in line with representations made previously by the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit on behalf of the 5 Tees Valley Authorities.

Members were provided with details of how the additional dwellings had been redistributed throughout the Tees Valley.

The revised figures allowed for an average additional 25 dwellings per annum, within Stockton on Tees Borough. The 2007 version of the RSS frontloaded the majority of dwellings into the earlier phase of the plan period, with the latter phase having a more limited level of growth. The revised figures provided a more balanced provision of dwellings over the plan period with reduced growth in the first phase and higher growth later on in the plan period.

Changes to the RSS included the number of pitches required to 2020 for Gypsies and Travellers by groups of Local Authorities. Stockton Borough had been grouped together with Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Darlington (Hartlepool was grouped together with Easington and Sedgefield). A total of 51 additional pitches were considered to be required.

However, paragraph 23 of circular 01/06 states that, "The RSS revision should identify the number of pitches required (but not their location) for each Local Planning Authority in the light of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments and a strategic view of needs across the region." The approach in the RSS was therefore not in accordance with advice in the Circular

Policy 32 had also been altered, in accordance with circular 01/06, to include a requirement for LDFs to plan, monitor and manage the provision and release of pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Show-people communities. A Tees Valley Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs assessment was commissioned in July 2007. This would identify pitch requirements by local authority area and inform the LDF in terms of future pitch provision.

In view of the above officers had submitted the following representation

- Amend table in paragraph 3.89 to provide Gypsy and Traveller Numbers by each Local Authority rather than groupings.
- Pitch requirements should be updated by Tees Valley study

There were a number of errors on a map relating to the Tees Valley City Region, these included the locations of, North Shore; Wynyard Business Park; the A66 trunk road; Darlington – Saltburn branch railway line and; Durham Tees Valley Airport, all being identified in the wrong location. In addition some settlement names were located erroneously which had also resulted in the extent of the conurbation, to the south of the borough, being geographically incorrect.

Officers had therefore advised Government Office North East of the necessary amendments.

Members noted that changes to the employment land section of the document were minimal and it was not considered that any representations were required on this section. However, Members were advised of certain changes to terminology and descriptions.

RESOLVED that

1. the contents of the report be noted.
2. the representations in the report be endorsed.
3. Reasons for the Decision

Stockton Borough Council had been consulted regarding the RSS further proposed modifications document (2008). The Spatial Planning Manager had assessed the document and had provided a summary of the main issues for members and a number of recommended representations. These representations were forwarded to Government Office for the North East (G.O.N.E) before the end of the consultation period (2nd April 2008). As the consultation period ceased before the date of this Cabinet meeting members were asked to note and endorse the content of the report.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal non prejudicial interest in this item as he served on the Regional Development Agency Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

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

Not later than Midnight on Friday 2nd May 2008

Proper Officer
28 April 2008