

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....15th January 2015

1. Title of Item/Report

Local Plan: Regeneration and Environment Local Plan (RELP) Publication Version - Approval for Public Consultation

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the Local Plan: Regeneration and Environment Local Plan (RELP) Publication Version – Approval for Public Consultation.

The report sought approval for the Publication version of the RELP, its associated policies map and supporting assessments, documents and studies which provided the remaining parts of the evidence base which had informed the development of the policies contained in the document for a period of public consultation in February - March 2015. This was the final consultation period for the draft plan before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for examination by an independent Planning Inspector.

The report summarised the contents of the RELP and explained the supporting documentation which accompanied it and the next stages in the plan preparation process before the plan can be adopted and used by the Council in determining planning applications.

The text of the RELP, the policies map and all other supporting documentation were available both electronically on the Stockton Council website agenda and in hard copy in the members' library. The Character Areas Study, previously endorsed by Cabinet, would also be available as part of the consultation. The updated plan would supersede some parts of the adopted Core Strategy and amended copies of these highlighting where the changes would occur were also available.

With regard to the next steps once the plan and associated documentation has been agreed, there would be a six week period of public consultation and, unless a fundamental flaw to the plan emerged through the consultation process, this would be the version of the plan which would be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination-in-public.

The Publication consultation was a more formal one than those previously held and those making representations would be asked to comment on whether the preparation of the plan and its contents passed the tests of soundness. This meant that the plan was positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Once the Council had considered all the representations it received at the Publication stage, it could amend the plan before submitting it to the Secretary of State if it considers it necessary. Often some minor amendments are made, but if the Council considered that more significant changes were required, a further period of consultation would be required before the plan is submitted. At Submission, the Council had to provide a written summary of all of the issues raised throughout the preparation of the plan and state how the issues raised at Publication had been dealt with.

The Planning Committee considered the RELP at its meeting held on 14th January 2015 they made the following comments:-

1. With regard to the land south of Cayton Drive, this site has been the subject of 2 separate planning applications that have been refused by the Planning Committee, neither of which have been taken to appeal. They also formed part of the Tees Heritage Park and are areas of open space valued by local residents.
2. The area of land at Tilery behind the football pitches be taken out of the open space/Great North Park and re-designated.

Members felt that with regard to the area south of Cayton Drive in order to protect this area and to reinforce the decisions taken by the Planning Committee the site at Thorntree Farm and land to the south of Cayton Drive which were proposed by Officers for removal from the green wedge as part of the RELP be reinstated as such, that Cayton Drive site be removed as a potential housing site under Policy H22 and they remain as open space and part of the Tees Heritage Park.

With regard to the area of land behind Tilery football pitches Members felt that this land should remain designated as open space as in the RELP.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. The Publication version of the Regeneration & Environment Local Plan and policies map and associated Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Infrastructure Strategy, Whole Plan Viability

Assessment and Consultation Statement be endorsed for a period of public consultation from February to March 2015.

2. The officers' responses to comments made to the Preferred Options version of the RELP which are contained in the Schedule of Responses attached to the Consultation Statement and in topic papers entitled Wynyard, Yarm and Kirklevington, Housing Need and Demand, Housing Site Selection Process and Health and Safety Executive Assessment of Site Allocations be endorsed.

3. The updated Villages Study 2014 and the Green Wedge Review 2014 as evidence base to the RELP be endorsed, subject to the amendment contained at recommendation 5.

4. The proposed amendments to the adopted Core Strategy to reflect the changes resulting from the Core Strategy targeted review of the Housing Strategy and the RELP be endorsed.

5. The site at Thorntree Farm and land to the south of Cayton Drive which were proposed by Officers for removal from the green wedge as part of the RELP be reinstated as such, that Cayton Drive site be removed as a potential housing site under Policy H22 and they remain as open space and part of the Tees Heritage Park.

6. Any further minor changes be delegated to the Head of Planning in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Transport and Regeneration.

3. Reasons for the Decision

1. To enable the consultation to proceed;
2. To agree how officers' have dealt with comments made to a previous version of the plan;
3. To agree updated evidence bases to support policies contained in the plan and illustrated on the Policies Map;
4. To agree changes needed to the Core Strategy resulting from the Core Strategy Review and the policies contained in the RELP.
5. To prevent any unnecessary delays to the public consultation.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of

agenda item 7 - Local Plan: Regeneration and Environment Local Plan (RELP) Publication Version – Approval for Public Consultation as he was a Director of Durham Tees Valley Airport.

Councillor Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7 - Local Plan: Regeneration and Environment Local Plan (RELP) Publication Version – Approval for Public Consultation as he was a member of Tristar Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

N/A

Proper Officer  
19 January 2015