

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO
COUNCIL**

26 MARCH 2008

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: REVISION OF THE LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AND UPDATE ON THE EMPLOYMENT LAND REVIEW
STAGE 2**

Members will be aware that Cabinet, at its meeting held on 13th March 2008 considered a report relating to the Local Development Scheme and an update on the Employment Land Review Stage 2. The report considered by Cabinet is available on the e genda system.

The Local Development Scheme is the project plan for the preparation of the documents that would comprise the Local Development Framework (LDF).

As part of the Annual Monitoring Report, the Council assessed its progress against the milestones identified in the LDS for the preparation of LDF documents and where there had been slippage, the LDS had to be revised accordingly. The revisions subsequently had to be agreed with Government Office for the North East (GO-NE) and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) before the Council could formally adopt it.

Whilst progress since April 2007 had been good, it had become apparent that the timetable proposed in the Second Revised LDS (published in April 2007) could not be maintained and required revision.

The main changes would be:

- Core Strategy would be submitted in September instead of May 2008.
- Preferred Options for Regeneration Development Plan Document and Yarm and Eaglescliffe Area Action Plans would now be published in September instead of May 2008 consultation purposes.
- The Environment DPD Issues and Options report would be published for consultation in January 2009 instead of January 2008.

A copy of the revised timetable is available in the report considered by Cabinet

The Employment Land Review (ELR) was part of the evidence base for the LDF and would inform and support policies in the Core Strategy and Regeneration Development Plan Document (DPD).

The Council completed Stage 1 of the ELR in autumn 2006. In Spring 2006 Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners (NLP) and Storeys: SSP (SSP) were appointed to undertake Stage 2. The work adopted a methodology advocated by a Communities and Local Government (CLG) guidance note and researched the local economy and the future employment land floorspace and land requirements.

Stage 2 of the study concluded that:

- For the LDF period (2007 – 21) Stockton Borough required 191.3 ha of employment land, an average take up of 13.6 ha per annum.
- For a 25 year supply 340.3 Ha of land was required. Given the time period of this projection this requirement was uncertain and would require monitoring.

Members should note that the above figures would be used within the Council's Core Strategy and would also be used in Stage 3 of the ELR which would identify which sites should be allocated, through the LDF, to meet employment land demand and provide for economic growth. Stage 3 of the ELR was expected to commence in the near future.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. The revised timetable for the Local Development Framework as detailed in the Local Development Scheme (appendix 1) be agreed.
2. Future amendments to the Local Development Scheme be delegated to the Head of Planning in consultation with the Chairperson of the Local Development Framework Members Steering Group.
3. The conclusions of the Employment Land Review Stage 2, which would be used as a basis for the development of employment policies in the LDF, be noted.