

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**21 OCTOBER 2009**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR  
OF DEVELOPMENT AND  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
SERVICES**

**SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE: FURTHER PROPOSED CHANGES TO CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT PRIOR TO FURTHER PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Stockton-on-Tees Core Strategy Development Plan Document is the first of a series of documents, which will replace Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan. The document has been through a number of stages of preparation before the final stages of Submission and Examination.

On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2009, Cabinet approved the Submission version of the Core Strategy as well as agreeing a number of Proposed Changes to the document and authorising the Head of Planning and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport to approve further minor amendments to the document.

From 22<sup>nd</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009, Stockton-on-Tees Core Strategy was the subject of an Examination-in-Public by an Inspector appointed on behalf of the Secretary of State. During the course of preparing for the Examination and during the Hearings themselves, a number of further proposed changes emerged. Some of these are minor and others are more significant. The Inspector can agree to the incorporation of the minor changes but he wishes the more significant changes to be the subject of a further six-week period of consultation.

At the end of the Examination in Public, the Inspector has announced his intention to deliver his final report to the Council by 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009, providing no major issues emerge from the further period of consultation. However, before any of the changes can be submitted to the Inspector or advertised for public consultation, members' agreement to the proposed changes was required. In order not to delay the inspector's final report on the soundness of the Core Strategy, which would result from referring the proposed changes back to Planning Committee, Cabinet and Council, it was considered that all of the Proposed Changes should be agreed using urgency delegated powers in consultation with the Mayor, Leader of the Council and Chair of Executive Scrutiny Committee. Attached are two schedules containing the proposed changes that were agreed the Schedule of Minor Changes and an Addendum of Significant Proposed Changes.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Council note the decision made under Special Urgency Procedures.