

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME  
(Report by Head of Planning Services)**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report informs Cabinet of the first 'Local Development Scheme' for Huntingdonshire, and seeks approval for its submission to the Secretary of State.

**2 PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

- 2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places a duty upon local planning authorities to prepare a 'Local Development Scheme' (LDS), and to submit it to the Secretary of State for approval. The Council's first LDS must be submitted by 28 March this year, although it is anticipated that it will be reviewed on a regular basis (at least once a year).
- 2.2 The LDS sets out the range of statutory planning documents which the Council will produce under the new system. As well as informing the community and other stakeholders of what to expect, the LDS is designed to assist with project management. Both roles are particularly important given that the Local Development Framework will comprise a series of documents to be produced over time.
- 2.3 Apart from summarising what will be produced and when, the LDS explains the structure of the new system, how the various documents interrelate and the way in which they will be produced. As such the LDS is expected to be a useful reference source for anyone interested in planning policy matters.

**3 CONTENT OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

- 3.1 The draft LDS is attached to this report. It contents accord with government advice on what the LDS should contain and the priority that should be given to certain documents.
- 3.2 The 'Core Strategy' is being progressed first, as this will provide a framework for other documents and replace out-of-date policies in the existing Local Plan. Other priorities are the Statement of Community Involvement (which explains how the community will be involved in document production) and a Supplementary Planning Document on Wind Power.
- 3.3 Informal observations on the draft LDS have been sought from the Government's regional office, and may necessitate minor changes following its consideration by Cabinet (and prior to its formal submission to the Secretary of State). Cabinet's agreement is sought to any such changes being made in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy.

## **4 RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a. Endorses the draft Local Development Scheme for submission to the Secretary of State;
- b. Authorises the Head of Planning Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, to make minor changes to the draft LDS prior to its submission, should this be necessary following informal consultation with Go-East.

### **Background Papers:**

ODPM, 2004, *Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks*

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