

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

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report informs Cabinet about the changes proposed to the Local Development Scheme as a consequence of the postponement of the examination into the soundness of the Core Strategy by the Planning Inspector. It also informs Cabinet about the receipt of the binding Inspector's report on the Statement of Community Involvement which is the second document to be completed under the LDS.
- 1.2 Cabinet's approval is sought to submit the revised LDS to Go East for the Secretary of State and to adopt the Statement of Community Involvement as amended by the Inspector's report.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It sets out the range of 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.
- 2.2 In March 2005, Cabinet approved the first Local Development Scheme (LDS) to be submitted to the Government. Go-East confirmed it had no objections to the scheme. A number of subsequent amendments have been agreed by Cabinet.
- 2.3 The most recent revisions were approved by Cabinet in June and have been submitted to Go East. However, Go East had not approved them at the time of the Inspector's postponement of the examination into the core Strategy. Thus, Go East have requested that a single, comprehensive review be undertaken of the LDS to reflect the postponement of the Core Strategy's examination and its consequential impact on the timetabling of other development plan documents which are expected to follow on from the Core Strategy.
- 2.4 The Statement of Community Involvement was submitted to the Secretary of State on 28 April 2006 in accordance with the timetable in the approved LDS. 19 representations were received; 6 were objections, 13 were expressions of support or comments.

**3 IMPACT OF POSTPONEMENT OF THE CORE STRATEGY'S EXAMINATION**

- 3.1 At the pre-examination meeting the Inspector stated that as a result of further advice from Government to all planning authorities on the submission of Development Plan Documents amendments would

need to be incorporated into Chapter 2 of the Core Strategy. These should result in the addition of more detailed spatial guidance on housing and employment reflecting Regional and Structure Plan policies, and the production of the necessary supporting documents. This will need to go through the normal public participation process.

- 3.2 Further research is necessary to support the amendments with preparatory work on housing and employment for the Planning Proposals DPD being brought forward to help inform the more spatially specific strategy that is required. It is anticipated that the initial Issues and Options consultation will take place in March 2007 and the preferred options should be available for consultation in July 2007. The submission of an amended 'Strategy' chapter should be possible in January 2008.
- 3.3 PPS12, paragraph 2.9 advises that the Core Strategy should normally be the first DPD to be produced and all other DPDs must be in conformity with it. To retain the primacy of the Core Strategy it has been necessary to fundamentally revise the production programme incorporated in the LDS. The expected adoption date of the Core Strategy is now likely to be December 2008.
- 3.4 The postponement of the Core Strategy will have no impact on the adoption and implementation of the Statement of Community Involvement. Although part of the Local Development Framework, it is not a Development Plan Document and therefore is not affected by the above advice.

#### **4 PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE LDS**

- 4.1 A copy of the draft revised LDS is attached as Appendix A to this report. The main proposed amendments include:
- Revisions to the Core Strategy timetable to include additional consultation in accordance with the Inspector's requirements.
  - Prioritisation of the Huntingdon West AAP to follow on closely from the Core Strategy amendment
  - The Planning Proposals DPD and the Gypsy and Traveller DPD are now programmed to proceed consecutively to reduce consultation fatigue. This will be procedurally more efficient and should help consultees understand how the various documents integrate.
  - Adjustments to major consultation periods to avoid August and Christmas holiday periods to reflect concerns by consultees on their reduced availability in these periods.
  - Rescheduling of the Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD to follow on from the RSS single issue review on provision for gypsies and travellers which will identify the requirement in terms of pitch numbers at a district level.

#### **5 PROPOSED ADOPTION OF THE SCI**

- 5.1 The examination into the soundness of the SCI has been concluded and the Inspector has issued a report which is binding upon the Council. This concludes that the SCI is sound subject to three recommendations on minor amendments which the Inspector wishes to see incorporated into the document. A list of the required changes is included as Appendix B to this report.

## **6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- a. Endorses the draft revised 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;
  - c. Adopt the Statement of Community Involvement.

### **Background Papers:**

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks, ODPM, 2004  
Report and Minutes, Cabinet, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2005  
Report and Minutes, Cabinet, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005  
Report and Minutes, Council, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2005  
Report and Minutes, Cabinet, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006  
Report and Minutes, Council, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006  
Report and Minutes, Cabinet, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006

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