

Committee and Date

LDF Sub-Committee
17 March 2008 10 am
Implementation
Executive
9 April 12 pm

Item

4

Paper

B

DRAFT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS)

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Summary

It is proposed to begin immediately to prepare a joint Local Development Framework for Shropshire which will eventually be adopted by the Unitary Council. This report highlights the complete draft Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out the project management details alongside the timetable for new Planning Policy documents in Shropshire.

Recommendation

- A. Members are asked to approve the timetable and broad content of the draft LDS and recommend that each individual Shropshire authority agrees to this LDS as a replacement for their individual LDSs.

REPORT

1. The spatial planning system is based on a portfolio of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and other components. Some are mandatory, whilst local authorities have a certain amount of discretion over whether others are needed. The programme of policy work must be set out in a project timetable or Local Development Scheme (LDS), which must be approved by GOWM.
2. The LDS sets out the programme or timetable for the various stages in the production of new Planning documents, principally the Core Strategy and Site Allocation documents, highlighting important milestones such as public consultation stages, examination and adoption. It also shows how other important work areas such as regional planning, monitoring and evidence base work interact with or impact upon the production of new Planning documents.
3. The LDS itself is divided into two main sections:
 - a. **Structure and Operation of the LDF** – this section sets out the structure of the proposed LDF and describes the new documents and the saved policies from existing documents which make up the policy framework. This section also includes a schedule of the proposed documents and a chart which illustrates the timetable for their preparation.

b. **Supporting Statement** – this section gives further information about the Council's proposed approach, the relationship between the LDF and other Plans and Strategies; details of the evidence base; arrangements for monitoring and review; resource implications; programme management and risk assessment.

4. In initial discussions, GOWM have indicated that the Shropshire authorities acting jointly through the Implementation Executive should submit a new, draft LDS as soon as possible. We would submit a formal LDS after the Planning Reform Bill is enacted, probably in mid-April 2008, (this date has yet to be clarified by GOWM) as this will change the development plan system and we will need to conform to the new legislation.
5. Although the draft LDS has taken account of the changes likely to come forward in the new legislation there may need to be some further minor amendments to reflect the final version of the Bill. The most noticeable changes between this and previous LDSs are; that the proposals for Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) no longer need to be shown, whilst the Preferred Options stage for Development Plan Documents (DPDs) is no longer a statutory requirement and performance milestone, although it remains a recommended part of the process.
6. The position on a replacement Minerals planning policy document is still to be clarified. Lengthy discussions have been held between GOWM, CLG and the Borough of Telford and Wrekin on the best way forward and one approach is for both Councils is to prepare a joint Minerals Core Strategy - separate from each main Core Strategy. However this is not supported by GOWM.
7. Should this scenario be set aside, a safer course of action would be to prepare a Minerals DPD for Shropshire. This would also need to be included in the draft LDS, depending on the need for specific minerals related policies and the revised sub-regional mineral requirements emerging from RSS Phase 3 and other technical considerations.
8. It is a requirement that the final LDS is formally approved by members before it is submitted to GOWM. It is proposed that this is achieved through LDF Sub-Committee on 17th March 2008 and the Implementation Executive on 9th April 2008.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Human Rights Act Appraisal Not applicable
Environmental Appraisal Not applicable
Risk Management Appraisal If the LDS milestones are not met the Shropshire Council will risk loss of reward grant and negative impact on council performance assessments
Community / Consultations Appraisal The LDS sets out the timetable for public consultation at different stages of

Planning document preparation
Member Champion John Everall, Elizabeth Yeomans
Local Member All
Appendices Not applicable