

Subject: Update to Members on Progress of Core Strategy Development Plan Document and Local Development Scheme (LDS) **Status:** For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 21st January 2009

Report of: Executive Director - Business

Portfolio

Holder: Regeneration

Key Decision: No – Update Report

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Forward Planning team is tasked with delivering the development plan, known as the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Rossendale. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable for the preparing the LDF. This is reviewed on an annual basis and covers a rolling three year period, and discussions will shortly be taking place with Government Office for the North West, prior to its submission as part of the Annual Monitoring Report in December this year.
- 1.2 An update report on the Core Strategy and Site Allocations, was taken to Policy Overview and Scrutiny on 5th November 2008.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of the Core Strategy and Local Development Scheme, since the previous report of the 5th November 2008.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.
- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
 - Delivering Regeneration across the Borough (Economy, Housing)
 - Keeping Our Borough Clean and Green (Environment)
 - Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
 - Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)
 - Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 Core Strategy for Rossendale

4.2 Having met with representatives from the Government Office for the North West and the Planning Officers Society Enterprise as well as undertaking a through analysis of the resources and time required to complete the Core Strategy, the publication date has been moved to October 2009.

4.3 In order to manage the development of the Core Strategy, a Project Implementation Document (PID) has been produced and a Project Manager has been appointed to oversee the progression of the document. In addition to the PID a completed action sheet against the actions set out in the Soundness Toolkit.

4.4 This additional time will take on board the policies contained in the recently adopted Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West; a plethora of new evidence to support decisions and a new structure to the document.

4.5 A Steering Group of elected members (with representatives from across the political parties) has been set up to advise on the Core Strategy, and will meet monthly, to check the progress of the document and feedback on the content and direction.

4.6 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration is also meeting fortnightly with the Director of Business, Planning Manager and project manager to discuss the development of the Core Strategy.

4.7 A consultation project plan is being drawn up, in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement, and will be agreed by the Planning Manager and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration. The Consultation Project Plan will detail the specific consultation events such as, meetings with the Local Strategic Partnership, and other key stakeholders including Lancashire County Council and neighbourhood and developer forums.

4.8 The revised structure of the Core Strategy will see small chapters on each area/ settlement of the borough and the vision for its future development and a strategy that will achieve it. The chapters are not designed to give great depth of detail, but set out the overall vision for individual communities within Rossendale. As such, each chapter will be presented to the people of the respective communities through the neighborhood forums as set out below:

- Rawtenstall Neighborhood Forum – 26th January 2009, 7pm, Longholme Methodist Church, Rawtenstall

- Bacup Neighborhood Forum – 26th January 2009, 7pm, Maden Centre, Bacup
 - Haslingden, Edenfield & Helmshore Neighborhood Forum – 17th March 2009, Venue TBC
 - Whitworth Neighborhood Forum – 17th March 2009, Venue TBC
- 4.9 In addition to neighborhood forums, relevant chapters of the Core Strategy will be taken a variety of residents associations meetings, action and interest groups as well as wider public consultation. Greater detail will be included in the Consultation Project Plan.
- 4.10 **Rossendale Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2008 – 2011**
- 4.11 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) outlines the program for preparing and reviewing the documents contained in Rossendale’s Local Development Framework (LDF) including statutory planning documents, the Annual Monitoring Report and Supplementary Planning Documents. The LDS is required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 4.12 The LDS focuses on setting out a ‘rolling’ three year programme of work. It will be reviewed and updated each year following the submission of an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which will provide a review of the implementation of the LDS in order to inform necessary changes to a revised LDS. The LDS also gives an indication of work that is proposed beyond each 3 year period. The LDS will be kept under review and updated when necessary.
- 4.13 The LDS for 2008 – 2011 will replace the current LDS for 2007 – 2010. The timetable will be agreed with the Government Office for the North West prior to its adoption in the New Year.
- 4.14 The LDS will set out the timetable for the development of Rossendale’s Core Strategy DPD scheduled for submission in November 2009, having taken into account a new evidence base and the findings of the PID.
- 4.15 The LDS is a public document for the community and stakeholders to find out about Rossendale’s planning policies. Rossendale’s Local Development Schemes are available to download at:
http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=374&documentID=84
- 4.16 The LDS will also be available in hard copy at the Council’s One Stop Shop in Rawtenstall, during opening hours.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 The Council has previously identified financial resources to fund the Local Development Framework project. Officers anticipate that adequate resources remain to complete the project.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

6.1 No comments.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

7.1 No HR implications.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Significant progress is being made with the production of the LDF, in particular work is being undertaken to ensure that the evidence required to inform future documents is up-to-date. The Forward Planning Team are working on the Core Strategy scheduled for submission in November 2009 and the Site Allocations DPD.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 That Cabinet notes the report.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 N/A

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West Team, September 2008; Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning, June 2008; Rossendale's Local Development Scheme, contained in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), December 2007	One Stop Shop Council Website