Borough of Rossendale

TITLE: **Rossendale Borough Council Local Development Scheme**

BY: **Stephen Pimlott (Planning Officer)**

LEAD MEMBER: Councillor William Challinor

STATUS: **For Consultation**

TO/ON: **Cabinet 09/11/2005**

1.   PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1   This report presents the Issues and Option Report stage of the development of the Core Strategy. The report set out the purpose of the report and its role as apart of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and developing new planning policy for Rossendale.

2.   RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1   For Cabinet to endorse the Issues and Options Report in order to then publish the document for consultation.

3.   REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

3.1   The Issues and Options Report is an initial stage of the Core Strategy's preparation. It follows on from the evidence gathering work that has been undertaken and is available for public comment. The results of the evidence gathering are summarised in a separate report on the Borough's Profile, available at www.rossendale.gov.uk

3.2   The Issues and Options Report sets out the initial ideas for the Rossendale Core Strategy. It sets out the key issues that arise from a range of background documents and presents options as to how these might be addressed in terms of planning policy.

3.3   The Council has not made any decisions yet as to which options it prefers. This will be informed by comments received during consultation, as well as a separate 'Sustainability Appraisal' of the different options.

3.4   Although the Council has some flexibility in the planning policies it wishes to include in the Rossendale Core Strategy, it is still required to be in conformity with national, regional and county planning documents and have regard to the Rossendale Community Strategy.

3.5   Once comments are received on this Issues and Options Report, Rossendale Borough Council will prepare a report setting out the preferred options for the Core Strategy. People will then be invited to give their views on the preferred options. These comments will then inform the draft Core Strategy that the Council will prepare. The draft Core Strategy is then submitted to the Government and will go through a public inquiry that will be led by a Government-appointed Inspector.

Structure of Document

3.5   **Section 2** sets out the policy background to which the Core Strategy must conform and the proposals in the Community Strategy to which the Core Strategy must have regard.

3.6   **Section 3** provides a draft 'Spatial Portrait'. This is a brief description of the Borough and it must be provided in the final Core Strategy. A draft 'Spatial Portrait' is provided at the Issues and Options stage to give people the opportunity to comment on the draft text.

3.7   **Section 4** provides a draft vision and strategic objectives for the Core Strategy.

3.8   **Sections 5-8** set out the main policy issues and options, structured into four main themes:

- Living in Rossendale
- Working in Rossendale
- Enjoying and Managing Rossendale's Environment
- Transport In and Around Rossendale

3.9   These four themes reflect the policy themes proposed in the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and therefore assist in achieving consistency between the RSS and the Rossendale Core Strategy.

3.10   Each of the four theme chapters includes the following:

- Summary of the key issues for each theme identified at the baseline evidence gathering stage.
- Relevant themes from the Community Strategy (this is to ensure the policy issues and options have regard to the Community Strategy).
- Relevant draft Core Strategy Objectives
- Questions and options for the possible policy responses and approaches.

3.11   The current draft of the document is attached to this report. However the format of the document is likely to change to provide information in a more accessible

way and to reflect the emphasis on spatial planning. It should also be noted that changes to the document between Cabinet briefing 26th October 2005 and Council 16th November 2005 should be anticipated following the Core Strategy Working Group on 2nd November 2005.

4. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

4.1. FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

4.2. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS

A specific Member's Development session on the Local Development Framework, including the Core Strategy is scheduled for November 2005.

Information on the LDF can be viewed at www.rossendale.gov.uk/fowardplanning including the ODPM's guide to the planning system, introduction documents to the LDF and general planning policy information.

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was published for consultation on the 17th October 2005 with feedback required by 25th November 2005. The RSS is the regional planning policy document to which the Core Strategy must conform. This sets out a broad range of planning policy objectives including , housing and employment provision, transport and environment etc. Members can currently view this document at www.nwra.gov.uk

4.3. HUMAN RESOURCES

4.3.1 Head of Service and Spatial Development Manager positions for the Economic Regeneration and Spatial Development Service are to be populated.

4.3.2 The Forward Planning Team has recently had the return of a Senior Planning Officer on a Part Time basis.

4.3.3 The capacity of the Forward Planning Team to prepare documents that will form the LDF will be reduced through the loss of a Planning Assistant position.

5. ANY OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATE PRIORITIES
N/A

6. RISK

6.1 The introduction of the Council's new constitution is anticipated to have a significant impact on the ability of the Council to meet the milestones set out in the Local Development Scheme. Subsequently, this is likely to reduce the likelihood of the Council to receive part of its potential Planning Delivery Grant (approx £250,000)

6.2 A LDF update was provided to members during October 2005 identifying the need for a revised Local Development Scheme. Amendments to the Core Strategy timetable were initially identified due to delays in the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) to which a Core Strategy must conform. Following approval from Government Office a revised LDS has been drafted and reflects changes to the Area Actions Plans.

6.3 Following further discussion with GONW, Rossendale has now been advised not to proceed with the submission of a revised LDS and to remain with updating this document on an annual basis.

6.4 The Forward Planning team recognises the need to provide information on changes to the timetable during the year and is currently preparing an improved LDS that will have a "Working Draft" status to inform members etc. LDF updates will also be used to communicate changes to the LDF programme.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT

N/A

8. EQUALITIES ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT

N/A

9. WARDS AFFECTED

The Core Strategy will set out broad planning policy and objectives for the entire borough of Rossendale.

10. CONSULTATIONS

The Issues and Options Stage of the Core Strategies preparation is subject to regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. This requires a local authority to consult with consultation bodies it considers the document's subject matter will effect and any general consultation bodies it considers appropriate.

The approach by the Council and Arup will go beyond regulatory requirements and include a minimum of consultation with members, the Rossendale Local Strategic Partnership and Community Network.

11. Background documents:

A) Town Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
B) Town Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Regulations
C) Planning Policy Statement 12
D) Planning Policy Statement 12 Companion Guide
E) Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (consultation period 17th October – 25th November 2005)

F) Rossendale Borough Council Local Development Scheme
G) Rossendale Borough Profile

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:

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