

**Subject:** Core Strategy: The Spatial Vision and Spatial Objectives and the Revised Timetable for Adoption.

The purpose of this briefing note is to inform members of the overall Vision of the Core Strategy and the Spatial Objectives which will guide the direction of the Plan. The revised timetable for the Core Strategy, including key consultation events, is also included for members' information.

The Forward Planning team is currently preparing the Core Strategy, a key document in the Local Development Framework, which will replace the Saved Policies of the 1995 Rossendale District Local Plan. The Core Strategy looks ahead 15 years and puts into spatial form the essential components of the Community Strategy.

Consultation has already been undertaken to help prepare this briefing note, the most recent being on the eight Area Visions, which will form part of the Core Strategy. An all party Member Steering Group has played an important part in guiding the preparation of the document.

It is now intended to undertake a major public consultation exercise starting in late October on a draft version of the entire document. Approval will be sought from Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> October to consult on this draft version. Cabinet are also being kept informed. The document will contain the following:

- Spatial Portrait of the area
- Vision for Rossendale
- Strategic Objectives
- Planning Policies
- Area Vision Policies

Work is still progressing on preparing the document, in particular, writing the policies and updating the Area Visions in the light of comments received on the various options put forward.

A Draft Vision and Draft Strategic Objectives have already been put together. These will undergo wider consultation as part of the October consultation event on the Draft Core Strategy. These are included in the attached Appendix for members' information.

The timetable for preparing the Core Strategy has recently been updated and is shown in the table below.

7th October 2009	Approval sought from Council to undertake consultation on Draft Core Strategy (Revised Options)
26th October 2009	Draft Core Strategy (Revised Options) consultation commences (6 weeks)
26th October to 3rd December 2009	Draft Core Strategy (Revised Options) consultation
1st March 2010	Publication of Core Strategy (proposed submission version)
March - mid April 2010	6 week period to make representations on the Draft Core Strategy (Pre-submission version)
June 2010	Submission of the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State for examination
September 2010	Likely date for examination of the Core Strategy
Spring 2011	Estimated date of adoption of the Core Strategy for Rossendale

The timetable shown above will be inserted in the Local Development Scheme. It is based on advice from Government Office for the North West and the Planning Inspectorate.

Overview and Scrutiny will be regularly updated about progress on the Core Strategy and are invited to make comments at each of the consultation stages.

The Forward Planning section is progressing the Core Strategy and dates have been set for key milestones, such as submitting the document to the Secretary of State. This update also includes the Draft Vision and Spatial Objectives which are guiding the Plan.

Members are asked to note the content of this briefing note, in particular the key milestones in the production of the Core Strategy, as well the Vision and Spatial Objectives which will guide the Core Strategy.