

Subject: Core Strategy DPD Update Report	Status: For Publication
Report to: Full Council	Date: 24 th March 2010
Report of: Planning Manager	
Portfolio Holder: Regeneration	
Key Decision: No	
Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Exception <input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To update members on the progress of the Core Strategy DPD and associated evidence base following the recent consultation on *The Proposed Way Forward* in November and December 2009.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1. The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:-
- Delivering quality Services to our customers
 - Delivering regeneration across the Borough

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. During the recent public consultation on the Core Strategy: The Proposed Way Forward, 79 written representations were received. Every person or organisation has since been sent a letter confirming receipt of their comments and informing them of the next stages in the process.
- 4.2. Over 1000 individual comments were recorded from members of the public at the drop-in sessions around the Borough. A summary of these comments was circulated in the Grapevine and via Members Brief.
- 4.3. We are currently going through all of the comments and representations received and have begun the process of analysing them and making any appropriate changes to the document as a result.

- 4.4. Those who submitted representations on the Core Strategy will shortly receive our response to their comments and be made aware of changes that have occurred as a result.
- 4.5. In addition to work on the Core Strategy document, various aspects of the evidence base have been progressed including:
- 4.6. A **Wind Energy in the Landscape Study** has been undertaken for a consortium of South Pennine authorities led by Rossendale. It identifies the landscape sensitivity of all parts of the study area and the capacity to accommodate wind energy developments. The Final Report was received in February 2010.
- 4.7. The **Renewable Energy Potential Study** is again being prepared for a consortium of South Pennine authorities, this time led by Pendle. It will examine the potential for different types of renewable energy within each Borough and is due to report in April.
- 4.8. A **Tourism Study** looking at the potential economic benefits of tourism is underway and a survey of business associated with tourism (e.g. attractions, retailers, restaurants and overnight accommodation providers) will be undertaken in the next couple of weeks. A workshop for these businesses is also being planned. It is intended that this study will be completed by May.
- 4.9. A **Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment** is currently going through the tendering process to appoint consultants to assess the potential impact of the policies in the Core Strategy (post consultation amendments) upon the environment, economy, communities and European-protected habitats. It is anticipated that this will start in late April early May.
- 4.10. As a result of the comments received and new evidence produced by the studies, a number of significant changes will be made to some specific policies contained in the Core Strategy. The changes are primarily expanding on existing information rather than objections to the thrust of the policies. The bespoke consultation is anticipated to include nature conservation, the built environment, wind energy, renewable energy and possibly tourism. The majority of policies in the Plan have drawn widespread support and will only be subject to minor modifications.
- 4.11. Because of the scale of the changes on some policies it is considered advisable to conduct a short, bespoke consultation on these before reaching the next formal stage of Publication (known as Regulation 27). It is anticipated that this will take place immediately after the elections on 6th May for a period of three weeks. Any comments received can be incorporated into revised policies that will be subject to further Sustainability Appraisal during the summer. The Publication version of the document will be reported back to Full Council before the next formal consultation stage.
- 4.12. The upcoming bespoke consultation will ensure that interested parties will be fully aware of the Councils approach to the Core Strategy and have an opportunity to make comments on elements that were not in *The Proposed*

Way Forward. The consultation will be targeted towards organisations/groups/individuals interested in or likely to be affected by the principal policy changes. The consultation will not be as widespread as that undertaken in November/December 2009 with letters/emails only sent to selected consultees. However the general public will still have the opportunity to comment as the changes will be advertised in the Free Press, online and at Libraries.

- 4.13. Any such consultation will be conducted in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1. Any financial implications will be met from existing budget resources.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1. Legal implications are covered within the body of the report.

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

- 7.1. No Human Resources implications.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1. Work on the Core Strategy and evidence base is ongoing and it is anticipated that we will meet the timescales set out in the recently adopted Local Development Scheme (LDS).

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1. That members note the information contained in this report and give authorisation for the bespoke consultation. It is recommended any changes to the Core Strategy as a result of this consultation be delegated to the Planning Manager and the Portfolio holder.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1. Consultation has been carried out on several of the studies as part of the *Core Strategy: The Proposed Way Forward* consultation undertaken in November / December 2009. Consultation with stakeholders has also been included as part of most of the studies (e.g. the consultants spoke to property agents, and economic development and business organisations active in the area as part of the Employment Land Study).

11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Community Impact Assessment required Yes No

Is a Community Impact Assessment attached Yes No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required Yes No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached Yes No

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Background Documents

Document	Place of Inspection
Core Strategy: The Proposed Way Forward	Online at www.rossendale.gov.uk/corestrategy