

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANNING & COMMUNITY STRATEGY)
TO THE EXECUTIVE
17 OCTOBER 2008

Local Development Framework: Changes to the Local Development Scheme

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets the overall timetable for producing documents that comprise the Local Development Framework (LDF). The current LDS was submitted to the Government towards the end of 2006 and agreed by them in May 2007. It is important that it is kept up to date as all LDF documents must be prepared in accordance with it; it informs people what documents will be produced and when; and one element of the Planning and Housing Delivery Grant is dependent on Councils meeting the key milestones it sets out. The LDS should therefore be as realistic as possible about the future work programme.

1.2 For ease of reference Appendix 1 to this report sets out the key milestones for:

- The Core Strategy – which establishes the vision for the future of the Vale and the different communities within it, the broad framework for development in the district, key policies and strategic sites
- A “Managing Development” Plan Document – (formerly called the Site Allocations Document) which identifies smaller sites, contains the criteria based development control policies and shows detailed designations (such as major developed sites in the Green Belt)
- The Statement of Community Involvement - sets out how people will be involved in the preparation of the LDF documents
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) for design and also sustainable construction and resource efficient buildings.

Appendix 2 contains the LDS as proposed to be revised and submitted to the Government Office.

1.3 We have recently received a request from Thames Valley Police to secure contributions or facilities for the police. Officers are currently assessing the need for and timing of such guidance, and whether the resources are available to prepare and implement it. The Strategic and Local Planning Advisory Group considered it would be appropriate for a decision on whether to include this in the LDS to be delegated to the Deputy Director (Planning and Community Strategy) in consultation with the planning portfolio holder and opposition spokesman.

1.4 The contact officer for this report is Katie Barrett (Development Policy Manager, telephone 01235 540339. [Email address katie.barrett@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:katie.barrett@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 *The Executive agree the changes to the timetable for the preparation of the documents that will comprise the local development framework as set out in Appendix 1 to this*

report, and agree to the Local Development Scheme in Appendix 2 to this report being submitted to the Government Office.

2.2 *In the event that the Government Office requires changes to the Local Development Scheme, authority be delegated to the Deputy Director (Planning and Community Strategy) to*

- i) make minor changes that do not affect the overall approach of the LDS*
- ii) make more substantive changes in consultation with the planning portfolio holder and opposition spokesman.*

2.3 *Authority be delegated to the Deputy Director in consultation with the planning portfolio holder and opposition spokesman to decide the principle of whether to include an SPD for contributions towards new infrastructure for the police arising from new development.*

3.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies

3.1 This report supports the Council's vision and objectives A and E. All documents in the Local Development Framework must be prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme.

4.0 An Outline of the Changes Proposed

4.1 The current LDS is out of date and needs revising for the following reasons.

- The Government now expects Core Strategies to contain more information about place shaping and in particular to include strategic sites for development. More evidence has to be gathered than previously envisaged and there are delays in obtaining the views of statutory consultees who are finding it difficult to meet the demands placed on them by Councils seeking to progress their LDFs. For these reasons the Core Strategy preferred options document will take longer to prepare than originally envisaged. The original estimate for consultation on the preferred options document in July-July 2008 has not been met and it is expected that it will now occur in January-February 2009.
- The change to the timing of the Core Strategy has implications for the Managing Development document to be prepared subsequently.
- The Government's change to the process for preparing local development documents by merging the issues and options stage with the preferred options stage, and for having consultation on the submission document before it is submitted to the Secretary of State, require changes to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This will also need to reflect the loss of the Council's Faringdon Office where, in the current SCI, documents are said to be available for public inspection.
- No bids were received from consultants to prepare the design guide. The brief was revised and the contract has now been let. For this reason the consultation on the draft design SPD originally programmed for June-July 2008 has not been met and needs to be revised.
- A new SPD on sustainable construction and resource efficient building needs to be added to the scheme.

4.2 The rationale of the timetable in Appendix 1 is to:

- establish more realistic dates for the production of the Core Strategy taking into account the need for more evidence early in the process particularly for strategic sites which must be shown to be deliverable. This is involving a considerable

amount of work with the service providers – especially with the County Council as highway authority

- avoid key consultations around the local elections in June 2009 (County Council) and May 2011 (District Council)
- consult on the Managing Development issues/options/preferred options document at the same time as the Core Strategy submission document so that a more complete picture of the development plan documents is available at the time of the examination on the Core Strategy
- publish the two closely related SPDs at the same time so people can see the inter-relationships between them
- publish the revised SCI at the same time as the Core Strategy preferred options document. This is the earliest it could reasonably be achieved and there may be opportunities to save administrative time and advertisement costs.

4.3 The revised timetable indicates that:

- the Core Strategy will be adopted in June 2011 which is 11 months later than in the current LDS; and
- the Managing Development document will be adopted in August 2012 – which is 8 months later than currently programmed.

Despite the slippage in the timetable, as the Core Strategy will now identify strategic sites (200 homes or more) for new housing and employment; development sites could be in an adopted plan some 6 months earlier than shown in the current LDS.

4.4 Apart from the changes to the new documents to be prepared and the timescales for preparing those that are in the current LDS, the main changes to the LDS include:

- a simplification of the wording
- updating the risks to delivery (paragraph 5.11) and
- Appendix 11 that shows in which development plan document policies in the Local Plan will be covered.

4.5 The key milestones shown in this report have been agreed by the Government Office and the Strategic and Local Planning Advisory Group. The complete document will be submitted to the Government Office, but as they usually want some wording changes that do not affect the overall approach it is suggested that minor changes be delegated to the Deputy Director (Planning and Community Strategy) and more substantive changes to him in consultation with the planning portfolio holder and opposition spokesman.

RODGER HOOD
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANNING & COMMUNITY STRATEGY)

Background Papers: Vale of White Horse Local Development Scheme 2006-2009

Local Development Framework: Key Milestones

Core Strategy	Dates in current LDS	Proposed revised dates
Pre production – evidence gathering	Jan-Oct 2007	√
Consultation on Issues and Options	Nov-Dec 2007	√
Participation on preferred options	June-July 2008	Jan-Feb 2009
Publish submission document	June-July 2009	Jan 2010
Submission to Secretary of State	April 2009	July 2010
Pre hearing meeting	August 2009	Sept 2010
Hearing sessions	October 2009	Nov 2010
Inspector's report – fact check	April 2010	March 2011
Inspector's report published		April 2011
Adoption	July 2010	June 2011

Managing Development DPD	Dates in current LDS	Proposed revised dates
Pre production – evidence gathering	Aug 2008-March 2009	Jan – Dec 09
Public participation on Issues/Options /Preferred Options	Nov-Dec 2009	Jan-Feb 2010
Publish submission document	Sept-Oct 2010	June 2011
Submission to Secretary of State	September 2010	October 2011
Pre hearing meeting	February 2011	December 2011
Hearing sessions	April 2011	February 2012
Inspector's report – fact check	September 2011	June 2012
Inspector's report published		
Adoption	December 2011	August 2012

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	Proposed Dates
Consultation on draft SCI	Jan-Feb 2009
Adoption	May 2009

Design SPD	Dates in current LDS	Proposed revised dates
Consultation on draft SPD	Nov-Dec 2007	May-June 2009
Adoption	July 2008	November 2009

Sustainable Construction and Resource Efficient Buildings SPD	Proposed Dates
Consultation on draft SPD	May-June 2009
Adoption	November 2009