

TITLE:	Derwentside Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Development Plan Document Issues and Options
TO/ON:	Executive – 8th January 2007
BY:	Director of Environmental Services
PORTFOLIO:	Environment
STATUS:	Report

STRATEGIC FACTOR CHECKLIST

The Council's Corporate Management Team has confirmed that the Strategic Factor Checklist has been applied to the development of this report, and there are no key issues, over and above those set out in the body of the report, that need to be brought to Members' attention.

1 SUBJECT MATTER AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) Issues and Options. This document is the first stage in the preparation of the Council's first Local Development Documents (LDDs). A full copy of the document is attached to this report.
- 1.2 The Core Strategy has close links with the Community Strategy and will be a key component in its delivery.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a new development plan system. At District level this will comprise the Local Development Framework, which will be a folder of LDDs that will guide the future landuse of the District.
- 2.2 The first stage in the preparation of any LDD is the Issues and Options Stage. Using the context of national and regional planning guidance and local evidence and opinions, gathered through informal consultation with the community and other stakeholders, it identifies issues that are important to the future development of the District and presents possible options for addressing those issues.
- 2.3 The Local Development Scheme shows the Issues and Options stage for the Core Strategy DPD programmed for October 2006. However, delays have occurred because of slippage in the timetable for the Regional Spatial Strategy and the need to commission a number of pieces of research work to inform the LDF.

3 CONTENT OF THE CORE STRATEGY DPD ISSUES & OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Core Strategy will set out the key elements of the planning framework for the area. It will set out what sort of place Derwentside is and what sort of place it should aim to become.
- 3.2 The Issues and Options document sets out a possible Vision of what Derwentside will be like in 2021 and identifies objectives that will help realise that Vision. It then looks at the future locational strategy for the District and then has chapters on specific topic areas such as climate change, housing and employment.
- 3.3 In each chapter some background on what the Government says is given and any relevant guidance at a regional level. A summary of the relevant parts of the Community Strategy and the Strategic Vision for County Durham are also given. It then looks at what evidence is available and gives some relevant facts and figures. Finally a summary of what has already been said in the consultation undertaken so far.
- 3.4 At the end of each chapter are a number of questions with alternative answers. Using the information provided and their own opinion on the future development of the District, consultees are asked to pick a preferred answer to each question.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation is a fundamental and important part of the reformed planning system. Members will recall the significant amount of work, which has gone into the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The consultation on the Core Strategy DPD must conform to the provisions of the SCI, which requires the use of newspapers, questionnaires, public exhibitions, focus groups, written notification and the Internet.
- 5.2 As the requirements of the SCI are resource intensive it is proposed to have an eight-week consultation period rather than the minimum requirement of six weeks. It is proposed to begin the consultation period on the 2nd February 2007 and run it until the 30th March 2007.

6 NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 Following the consultation period the answers provided by respondents together with a sustainability appraisal of each answer and the results of evidence gathering currently underway, will be used to select the preferred option. These will then be taken forward and developed into policies and proposals in the Preferred Options document, which is currently programmed in the LDS for May 2007, although this will now slip.
- 6.2 Following further consultation the document will be submitted to the Government for approval, followed by an Examination in Public, presided over by a Government Inspector, before final Adoption.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The publication of the Core Strategy DPD is an important step in the preparation of the Derwentside Local Development Framework. The responses received will give an indication of the needs and aspirations of the community and enable them to be integrated into the policies and proposals that are brought forward in future stages.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Executive is recommended to:
- Approve the contents of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document Issues and Options and allow it to be published for public consultation beginning 2nd February 2007.

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