

Report to: District Council of Easington
Date: 4 December 2008
Report of: Executive Member for Regeneration
Subject: Easington Regeneration Statement
Ward: All

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the development and finalisation of the Regeneration Statement for Easington. (Attached as Appendix 1)

2. Consultations

2.1 Consultation in preparing the Regeneration Statement has taken place with key local and sub regional stakeholders including amongst others, Durham County Council, the Regional Development Agency One North East, English Partnerships, the private sector the North East Assembly and Housing Corporation.

2.2 In addition, in preparing the report account has been taken of discussions held with East Durham Local Strategic Partnership's Economy, Learning and Skills Group as well as East Durham Local Strategic Partnership's Executive the Voluntary and Community sector.

2.3 Further, the Regeneration Statement as a work in progress was presented to Nick Brown the Minister for the North East in August 2007 where favourable responses were given.

3. Background

The Regeneration Statement

3.1 Successful economies are dependent on a range of factors, economic diversity, a skilled workforce, connectivity, institutional capacity and innovation, and quality of life. Increasingly place is recognised as a critical factor in achieving both economic development and social inclusion. Creating the environment and attitude for making Easington a successful place has been the main aim of developing a strategic document that will offer a comprehensive framework for continuing that change.

3.2 It provides a bridge between the Local Development Framework and the Community Strategy to inform the place shaping agenda. It has been cited by the RTPI as an example of good practice in performing this role.

3.3 In 2006 consultants (Shared Intelligence) were engaged by Easington District Council with a brief to develop a non statutory, comprehensive regeneration statement and action plan for the district. Under the guidance of the Director for Regeneration and Development, Shared Intelligence conducted wide ranging discussions with key stakeholders in regard to the physical regeneration investment required to meet the councils 2021 vision for Easington and in particular

- highlight progress to date in the regeneration of Easington;
- set out a long-term vision and strategy for physical regeneration and placemaking across the District;
- identify and justify investment priorities for the District;
- consider the relationship between key investment programmes (for example Building Schools for the Future, housing market renewal, employment sites and premises and wider neighborhood renewal activity) and demonstrate how they reinforce each other;
- identify options for delivery of the strategy; and;

- serve as a prospectus to engage public and private sector partners and support future funding bids.

4. Context

- 4.1 The Regeneration Statement is not designed to rest on the legacy of the past but to look towards the changing picture in Easington. By recognising and building upon the successes made in recent years in changing the physical appearance of the district an avenue to progress can be identified. However, it is vitally important that the challenges created by our legacy are not ignored but shown to be surmountable through local activities such as housing growth, the success of the “turning the tide” initiative and improved business and retail infrastructure.
- 4.2 The statement also aims to connect the district to the regional economic drivers in the City Regions of Tyne and Wear and Tees Valley by demonstrating the strategic position the district holds and the wealth of opportunities for both City Regions as the City Regional Development Plans and the Multi Areas Agreements for both areas begin to take form.
- 4.3 This forward facing statement is not a statutory document but will form a reference point for many of the strategic plans that Easington District Council currently produces as well as inform the new Unitary Authority in its strategic planning deliberation, and has informed the recently produced County Durham Economic Strategy.
- 4.4 In achieving this strategic vision for Easington the Regeneration Statement maps the way forward in creating the key physical aspects needed to deliver that vision by 2021. these include clearly identifying
- Strategic Investment priorities for the public and private sector to align investment where it will have greatest impact.
 - Strategic use of local planning powers to support regeneration, economic development, housing and Building Schools for the Future. To build vibrant towns and villages.
 - Connection routes necessary to link Easington to local, regional and national markets and services.
 - How to make best use of our existing assets.
- 4.5 The Regeneration Statement creates a comprehensive guiding document that clearly defines the context in which the District can develop with the Local Authority supplying providing leadership and monitoring progress.

5. Implications

Financial

- 5.1 The financial implications are to be included in future investment plans. The cost implications of production and distribution of the document are approximately £2,500. These costs and any further distribution costs will be managed within existing revenue budgets.

Legal

- 5.2 There are no significant legal implications arising from the report.

Policy

- 5.3 The proposed approach detailed in the report will assist the Council to deliver a number of key policy objectives related to the economic well being of the District and to promote improve outcomes for the individual communities set out in the Corporate Plan.

Local Government Review

- 5.4 It is expected that the Regeneration Statement will become a core reference and strategic document of the New Unitary Authority for the forward planning of the East of Durham County.

Risk

- 5.5 A risk assessment process will need to be undertaken as the Delivery Plans associated with the Regeneration statement develop.

Communications

- 5.6 A communications strategy will need to be prepared following the agreement of the Regeneration Statement. Press releases will be arranged on endorsement of the strategy at full Council where a power point presentation will be made to members.

6. Corporate Implications

Corporate Plan and Priorities

- 6.1 The proposed approach is in line with Council's agreed priorities and the provisions of the Corporate Plan and the Transitional Plan.

Equality and Diversity

- 6.2 It is not considered there are any significant equality and diversity issues arising from the report.

E-Government

- 6.3 It is not considered there are any significant e-government issues arising from the report, other than the Statement will be made available by the web site.

Procurement

- 6.4 There are no procurement implications related to this report.

Performance Management and Scrutiny

- 6.5 The outcomes of this process will be subject to normal Scrutiny Committee arrangements.

Sustainability

- 6.6 The proposals set out in the report are intended to support the promotion of greater economic, environmental and social sustainability of the areas and communities in the District and will be informed by the sustainability appraisal process associated with the Core Strategy Process.

'Well Being Powers'

- 6.7 The proposals detailed are in line with the purpose of the 'well being' powers.

Crime and Disorder

- 6.8 It is not considered there are any significant crime and disorder issues arising from the report.

Social Inclusion

- 6.9 It is not considered there are any significant social inclusion issues arising directly from the report.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Council adopt the Regeneration Statement attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

Background Papers:

Regeneration Statement (Appendix 1)

Contact Officer:

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