

**AGENDA ITEM No. 12**

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETING

9 FEBRUARY 2007

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

**1. APPROVAL OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME: FIRST REVISION (A6101/SJM)**

**Proposal**

1 To adopt the First Revision of the Local Development Scheme, and resolve when it should take effect.

**2 RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the revised Local Development Scheme shall be adopted, and shall have effect from 14 March 2007.
2. That the Chief Executive in consultation with Government Office for the East Midlands be granted delegated authority to make minor amendments as required before publication.
3. That a schedule of meetings is produced and agreed for the Plans Review Task Team to monitor future progress against the milestones as set out in the LDS.

**Policy/Legal Background**

3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires every local planning authority to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) to set out how the authority will work towards the preparation of its Local Development Framework. The LDS is a public statement identifying which new planning policy documents will be produced, in what order, and when, and how they will be reviewed. As such, it is a starting point in helping all stakeholders understand an authority's intended planning policies. The LDS is a rolling 3 year project plan, which effectively forms the authority's planning policy work programme.

Following the Authority's resolution to adopt, the revised LDS will be submitted to the Secretary of State via the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM). A period of 4 weeks is allowed during which time the Secretary of State must notify the Authority whether the LDS is acceptable, after which the LDS takes effect.

**Key Issues**

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  - The Authority's first LDS was adopted and took effect in June 2005.
  - Delays to the anticipated project plan mean that the timetables have had to be considerably redrawn.

- Members agreed a revised timetable in October 2006 (Minute 85/06), but officers were subsequently advised by GOEM that a further period of consultation on Issues and Options for the Core Strategy was needed.
- The revised LDS indicates new milestones, including adoption of the Core Strategy in December 2009 and adoption of a joint Development Control and Site-Specific Policies document in December 2011.
- This means that arrangements will have to be made to 'save' existing policies beyond the initial saving to September 2007.
- Discussions have begun with GOEM and the East Midlands Regional Assembly prior to submitting proposals for the saving of existing Structure Plan and Local Plan policies beyond September 2007 to maintain a reasonable basis for planning decisions during the preparation of new plans.
- Need to ensure LDS is used and managed corporately to foster greater certainty for the authority and key partners.
- Overall need to balance the Government desire for speed with the requirement for soundness and a quality plan.

## **APPENDIX**

### **Background**

- 1 Since the first LDS was adopted in June 2005, progress has been monitored against key milestones. The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) published in December 2006 explained the reasons for slippage, which have included the decision to delay the release of Preferred Options for the Core Strategy. This allows time to take account of new evidence emerging from the sub-region to help inform the emerging options. Other issues include a desire to monitor LDF experiences at other authorities and new guidance emerging from the Planning Inspectorate; and resource continuity arising from difficulties with staff retention. The timelines in the revised LDS have been redrawn to take account of these problems.
- 2 In summary, the revised LDS now indicates that the Preferred Options consultation will take place in October - November 2007, after which the Core Strategy will be submitted to the Secretary of State in September 2008, and should be adopted in December 2009. This will be overlapped by pre-production on a joint Development Control and Site-Specific Policies document which is scheduled for adoption in December 2011.
- 3 Submission and agreement of this new Scheme has to be made before April 2007. It should be noted that recent correspondence from GOEM expects such revisions to become the definitive programme management document, departure from which should only be made in exceptional circumstances, or as agreed in future AMRs.
- 4 This amended timetable means that arrangements will have to be made to 'save' policies beyond the initial automatic 'saving' of existing plans to September 2007. Discussions are underway with GOEM and the Regional Planning Board on this matter.
- 5 In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, copies of the LDS will be made available at Aldern House and published on the Authority's website at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/helpshapethefuture](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/helpshapethefuture).

### **Resources**

- 6 This review indicates the need to commit sufficient resources in the medium to long term in order to meet the required stages for preparation, consultation and Examination of the proposed planning policy documents. There are no property resource implications.

### **Risk Management**

- 7 No risks arise out of the proposal.

### **Human Rights, Equal Opportunities, Health & Safety**

- 8 All these have been taken into consideration.

### **Consultees**

- 9 Policy Planning Manager; Head of Policy, Research & Partnerships; Chief Executive.

### **Enclosures**

- 10 Annex 1: revised Local Development Scheme.

**List of Background Papers** (not previously published)

11 None.

**Report Author**

12 Sue Marriott, Policy Planner

**Publication date**

13 1 February 2007