

AGENDA ITEM No. 7

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETING

2 OCTOBER 2009

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

**1. THE LDF CORE STRATEGY AND THE PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION
A.6101/RJB**

Purpose of the report

1. To agree the details of the document to be used in the consultation on the preferred options stage in preparing the Local Development Framework(LDF) Core Strategy.

Recommendations

2.
 1. **The document in Appendix 1 be accepted as a basis for consultation on the preferred options stage of the LDF process.**
 2. **Delegated Authority be given to the Head of the Planning Service to make minor changes to the above document in consultation with the Chair of the Authority and the Chair of Planning Committee**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. The preferred options consultation is a part of the statutory process in connection with the preparation of the LDF.

Background

4. A range of approaches to consultation has taken place since 2005, which have helped to inform the development of the LDF:
 - **Help Shape the Future 2005.** Early work on development of the Core Strategy was combined with consultation on issues and options for the NPMP.
 - **Consultation on draft National Park Management Plan 2006.** It gives a clear direction for future plans, strategies and actions to follow, including the LDF.
 - **Issues and Options for the Core Strategy 2007.** This was the first development of defined options for the spatial plan. A series of community workshops was run alongside the public consultation on issues and options.
 - **Refined Options for the Core Strategy 2009.** This was a further opportunity to refine the options for the spatial plan, based on joint evidence gathering undertaken with the District Councils in the Peak Sub-area. A full day workshop for stakeholders was run in September 2008, and community workshops took place during October 2008 in a number of settlements..

5. Members have been involved in workshops at various stages and levels throughout this process.
6. During this time technical evidence has been gathered by various means and is included in the following documents :
 - Strategic Housing Needs Survey
 - Strategic Housing Market Assessment
 - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
 - Employment Land Study
 - Landscape Character Assessment
 - Settlements review
 - Gypsy and Traveller site survey
 - Open spaces audit
 - Retail assessment
 - Strategic Flood risk
 - Traffic data
 - Climate change studies
7. The next stage is the preferred options consultation with the community, statutory and delivery agencies which builds on the responses from the previous consultations and evidence gathered. The process will involve publicising the availability of the document widely and making direct contact with various stakeholders for them to give specific responses in some cases. The document will be available for inspection on the web site, the Authority's offices and public libraries within the constituent Authorities.
8. The following table illustrates the remaining process involved, after the preferred options stage, in taking the LDF forward to adoption. It should be noted that from the date of submission the timetable is in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate and follows a formal statutory process.

Targeted consultation on Preferred Options	Late October - December 2009 (6 wks)
Consultation on submission draft	June - July 2010 (6 wks)
Submission to Secretary of State	September 2010
Pre-hearing meeting	November 2010
Examination hearings	February 2011
Receive Factcheck Report	April 2011
Receive Inspector's Report	May 2011
Adopt document	July 2011 (Authority meeting date)

Proposals

9. **The attached Appendix 1 is a summary version of the preferred options consultation document. It has been necessary to summarise it as the full document is over 200 pages long and unsuitable for inclusion as part of a Committee report of this nature. If members wish to see the full document prior to Committee it can be viewed on the Authority's web site ref:**

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/core-strategy-preferred-approach.pdf

or, if necessary paper copies can be provided on request to Democratic Services. The summary document contains the essential information on all the preferred policy approaches whilst the full document has extra reference to previous consultation responses, previous policies, the national and regional policy context and the sustainability appraisal.

10. It is necessary to use the full document for consultation purposes as the government and Planning Inspectorate advice regarding best practice on consultation suggests that it is necessary to demonstrate how the plan and the process of its preparation have complied with regulations and is underpinned by the key tests of soundness. This requires that policies conform to national and regional policy, are justified and supported by a clear and robust evidence base and that there is consideration of the deliverability of the spatial strategy. It is also important to demonstrate an iterative consultation process and audit trail of the development of options to final published policy. Furthermore, it should be clear how the emerging options and final policies perform against the sustainability appraisal. The need to take all these factors into account explains the reason for the length of the consultation document.
11. A members workshop held on 15 September 2009 related to this consultation and some members made suggestions regarding the style and content of the consultation document. These suggestions and the officer response are included in Appendix 2. Further written suggestions received from members have been incorporated into the document.
12. The document presented as an appendix to Committee still requires some minor updating. Work by consultants is on-going to assess the sustainability of the preferred approaches. In addition the preferred approaches must undergo an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitat Regulations to assess the potential impact of the plan on Natura 2000 designated sites (Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation). This work will not be complete until after the date of the Authority Meeting and as such officers will need further time to incorporate its findings into the consultation document. Earlier sustainability assessments have shown that while there is scope for improving the clarity of the plan, the broad thrust of the preferred approaches are sustainable in the National Park context and any negative results can be mitigated by encouraging the application of the plan as a whole, and not simply taking policies in isolation.
13. It is recommended that members accept the attached document in appendix 1 as a basis for the preferred options consultation. The consultation will take place from the end of October so there will be a continuing opportunity to make minor alterations to the text (including responding to the outcome of the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment) which do not alter the fundamental premise of the preferred approaches but improve presentation and incorporate any amendments made at the Authority meeting. In this respect it is requested that delegated powers be given to the Head of Planning in consultation with the Chairs of the Authority and of Planning Committee to make these alterations.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

14. **Financial:** The Authority may benefit from an award of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) if it meets the project plan timetable and Local Development Scheme (as amended) to submit the plan to the Secretary State by September 2010. It is not possible to illustrate with any certainty what this award may be at this stage as the grant fund is a limited national fund and the award is dependent on the number of other LDFs being submitted.

15. **Background papers**
Preferred Approaches for the Core Strategy:
[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/publications/Local Development Framework](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/publications/Local%20Development%20Framework)

Appendices

Appendix 1 Preferred Approaches Consultation Document
Appendix 2 Members Workshop Proposals and Officer response

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

R J Bryan, Head of the Planning Service, Thursday 24 September 2009