

**AGENDA ITEM No. 7**

**PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETING**

**28 MAY 2010**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**PART A**

**1. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: CORE STRATEGY DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION AND SUBMISSION (A.6101/RJB)**

**Purpose of the report**

1. To agree the document to be used in the final consultation prior to submission of the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy to the Secretary of State.

**Recommendations**

2.
  1. **The document in Appendix 1 be accepted as a basis for consultation at the final 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 consultation and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State are part of the statutory process for preparation of the LDF as set out in Regulations following the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The LDF supports the delivery of a number of outcomes in the National Park Management Plan, by considering the spatial implications of these outcomes and translating them into planning policy.

**Background**

4. The Authority agreed a revised timetable for preparation of the LDF Core Strategy at its meeting on 26 June 2009 (Minute 58/09). At its meeting on 2 October 2009, the Authority agreed details of the Preferred Approaches document for the previous stage of consultation (Minute 70/09). This was open for consultation from 26 October to 7 December. 75 consultees responded. Over 1000 individual comments have been considered and the document has been amended, where appropriate, to take account of the points made. Between January and February 2010 a further 6 weeks opportunity was granted for Parishes to respond, particularly on the issue of the Settlement Strategy and this attracted a further 14 responses. A detailed database of all responses along with the officer views on these responses can be accessed at <http://resources.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ldf/>. On going dialogue has taken place to refine the document, including Derbyshire County Council on waste and highways issues, Derbyshire Dales District Council and High Peak Borough Council on affordable housing delivery, Peak Park Parishes Forum on settlement strategy formulation and EMDA on economic development matters. In addition a response has been received from the North York Moors National Park Authority in the capacity as critical friend, who have

remarked that the plan provides a good basis for future development management decisions, and provides an interesting approach to spatial planning by drawing out the various landscape areas underpinning the Core Strategy.

5. The draft Core Strategy now has to be offered for a final stage of consultation before submission to the Secretary of State and then public Examination. The 6-week consultation period will be from 21<sup>st</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010. The required process is set out in Regulations, and involves publicising the availability of the document widely and inviting stakeholders to comment. The document will be available for inspection on the Authority's website, on deposit at the Authority's office and at a number of constituent authorities' offices, and available in public libraries.
6. Comments from respondents at this final stage must be related to the 'soundness' of the plan and process undertaken. Soundness tests include whether the plan is consistent with national and regional policy; that it is a 'spatial' plan; that it is justified by a robust and credible evidence base; that there are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring; and that it is reasonably flexible to deal with changing circumstances. The main issues of implementation and monitoring are set down in a Delivery Plan to be released for consultation and submitted alongside the Core Strategy. A summary version of the Delivery Plan is attached as Appendix 2. The full document including tables of indicators can be accessed through the background papers at the end of this report.
7. The draft Core Strategy will be forwarded to the Secretary of State by the 30<sup>th</sup> September, together with responses received to this consultation. Other formal submission documents include a Sustainability Appraisal, an assessment under the Habitats Regulations (HRA) and a Statement describing how previous consultations have been undertaken and how comments have been taken into account during preparation of the document. Emerging findings from the HRA were received on the deadline to writing this report and propose a variety of further amendments which consultants believe would strengthen the protection afforded to Natura 2000 sites. Officers have scope to consider the merits of making these changes and can liaise with the Chair of Authority under the delegated authority proposed under recommendation 2.
8. It is anticipated that a pre-hearing meeting will be held with the Planning Inspectorate in November, and that Examination hearings will begin in February 2011. The Examination Inspector's report should be received in May 2011, and it is hoped that the Authority can adopt the Core Strategy at its meeting in July 2011.

### **Proposals**

9. The draft Core Strategy is attached at Appendix 1.
10. Members have been involved at various stages in the plan's preparation, through briefings and workshops. The Plans Review Task Team met in March and considered a summary of issues (see Appendix 3) raised at the Preferred Approaches stage. Lead Representative Members have been given recent opportunity to discuss the draft text with chapter authors, and amendments have been made accordingly.
11. The document presented as Appendix 1 to Committee may still require some minor editorial or presentational amendments to:
  - sentence/paragraph construction;
  - numbers and tables in text and appendices;

- maps, diagrams, illustrations;
- cross references;
- footnotes

It is requested that delegated powers be given to the Head of the Planning Service in consultation with the Chairs of the Authority and Planning Committee to make these alterations. This will also provide an opportunity to take into account any further comments made by Members. A sample chapter has also been prepared to demonstrate how the published document is intended to appear and will be available for inspection at the Committee meeting.

**Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?**

12. **Financial:** There are no current concerns over the budget for this project but it will be important to maintain 3 year forward look to ensure the LDF project can be completed, including the need to organise the Examination into the Core Strategy and complete the subsequent Development Management Policies document. Work on a new climate change SPD is fully funded and has now commenced.
13. **Risk Management:** The main risks have centred around the need to keep to the publicised project plan in the Local Development Scheme, and the need to ensure the soundness of the plan. On-going project management systems have proved effective at keeping progress on track with the preferred scenarios presented to members in June 2009.
14. **Sustainability:** According to the Regulations, the policies in the Core Strategy must be assessed for sustainability at each stage in the process. The Sustainability Appraisal on the Submission draft has been undertaken and the final report will be available during the period of consultation and will accompany the LDF document when submitted to the Secretary of State. Generally this assessment has shown that a wide range of positive and significant positive effects are likely to arise from most of the policies, in particular in relation to the natural environment (landscape, biodiversity, air, soil and water quality etc). None of the policies were considered likely to result in significant negative effects on any of the SA Objectives.

In addition to the full Sustainability report, officers have also considered the impacts of the plan against the targeted groups in the Equalities Impact Needs Assessment (EINA). The need to undergo the EINA process has only emerged at the latter stages of the LDF project and as such had not been designed into the timetable. Nevertheless the assessment now completed reveals a largely neutral impact on targeted groups owing the strategic nature of the plan and the fact that specific groups are not generally identified in policy outcomes. There are some beneficial impacts identified for elderly people and gypsy and traveller groups by virtue of housing and accessibility policies. Further detailed consideration can be built into the project plan for producing Development Management Policies.

15. **Consultees:** Head of Policy, LDF Project Board, Lead members on topics, North York Moors NPA as “critical friend”
16. **Background papers** (not previously published)  
Local Development Framework consultation stages and evidence base:  
<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/plansandpolicies>

Further technical documents referred to in this report can be accessed at:  
<http://resources.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ldf/> .Documents include:

- Preferred Approaches consultation database

- Sustainability Appraisal Report
- Equalities Impact Needs Assessment
- Full Core Strategy Delivery Plan including tables of indicators

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Draft Core Strategy  
Appendix 2 – Delivery Plan Summary  
Appendix 3 – Summary of Issues

### **Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date**

R J Bryan, Head of the Planning Service, 20 May 2010