

Subject: Core Strategy

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet
Full Council

Date: 2nd September 2009
7th October 2009

Report of: Planning Manager

Portfolio

Holder: Regeneration

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this Report is to inform members of the overall Vision of the Core Strategy and the Spatial Objectives which will guide the direction of the Plan.
- 1.2. To provide a timetable for delivery of a revised Core Strategy, which will be subject to consultation commencing in October 2009.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1. The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:-
 - Delivering quality Services to our customers
 - Delivering regeneration across the Borough
 - Encouraging healthy and respectful communities
 - Keeping our Borough clean, green and safe
 - Promoting the Borough
 - Providing value for money services

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A Core Strategy is a statutory requirement and failure to progress its development would represent a legal and financial risk to the Council.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

Core Strategy: Spatial Vision and Objectives

- 4.1. As members will be aware the Forward Planning team has been preparing the Core Strategy, a key document in the Local Development Framework, which will replace the Saved Policies of the 1995 Rossendale District Local Plan.
- 4.2. Consultation has already been undertaken to help prepare this document, the most recent being on the eight Area Visions, which will form part of the Core Strategy. It is therefore timely and appropriate to now formally withdraw the 2006 Core Strategy documentation as it has now been updated as detailed below in paragraph 4.4. It should be noted that the previous work has been used to help inform the area visions in their preparation.
- 4.3. Withdrawal of the 2006 draft Core Strategy also reflects the fact that central government guidance on the production of Local Development Frameworks and in particular Core Strategies has evolved and changed significantly since that originally issued by the government in 2004 /05 and which was used in the preparation of the 2006 draft Core Strategy. The evolving and changing government guidance only starting to be provided early in 2007, as a response to Development Plan Documents in Lichfield and Tamworth being found unsound. The Council was prudent to delay further progression of the 2006 draft Core Strategy until the full impact of the government response was known, and which has led to the approach now being proposed within this report.
- 4.4. It is now intended to undertake a major public consultation exercise starting in late October on a draft version of the entire document. Approval will be sought from Council on 7th October 2009 to consult on this draft version which will contain:
- Spatial Portrait
 - Vision for Rossendale
 - Strategic Objectives
 - Topic Planning Policies
 - Area Vision Policies
- 4.5. A Draft Vision and Draft Strategic Objectives have been prepared. These will undergo wider consultation as part of the October consultation event on the Draft Core Strategy. These are included in the attached Appendix for members' information.
- 4.6. The timetable for preparing the Core Strategy has been revised and is shown in the table below.

7th October 2009	Approval sought from Council to undertake consultation on Draft Core Strategy (Revised Options)
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26th October 2009	Draft Core Strategy (Revised Options) consultation commences (6 weeks)
26th October to 3rd December 2009	Draft Core Strategy (Revised Options) consultation
June 2010	Publication of Core Strategy (proposed submission version)
June - July 2010	6 week period to make representations on the Draft Core Strategy (Pre-submission version)
October 2010	Submission of the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State for examination
January 2010	Likely date for examination of the Core Strategy
Summer 2011	Estimated date of adoption of the Core Strategy for Rossendale

- 4.7. The timetable shown above will be inserted in the Local Development Scheme. It is based on advice from Government Office for the North West and the Planning Inspectorate.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1. Financial implications arising from the development of the Core Strategy have been provided for within existing budgets and financial resources.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1. No comment.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1. No Human Resource Implications.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1. The Forward Planning section is progressing the Core Strategy and dates have been set for key milestones. This update also includes the Draft Vision and Spatial Objectives which are guiding the Plan, contained in the Appendix attached.
- 8.2. The Core Strategy under preparation and which will be published in October 2009 for consultation in effect supersedes the 2005/06 draft Core Strategy.

- 8.3. Additional and detailed information on the Core Strategy is available at www.rossendale.gov.uk/corestrategy

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1. To note the content of this Report, in particular the key milestones in the production of the Core Strategy, as well the Vision and Spatial Objectives which will guide the Core Strategy.
- 9.2. To note that all documentation prepared and consulted on from November 2005 to November 2006 should be formally withdrawn using the relevant legal processes and that these have now been superseded by the documents identified in 4.3.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1. Consultation has been undertaken with Government Office for the North West, and the LDF/Core Strategy Steering Group.

11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Is a Community Impact Assessment required Yes No X
- Is a Community Impact Assessment attached Yes No X

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required Yes No X
- Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached Yes No X

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Background Documents

Document	Place of Inspection
Core Strategy: Draft Vision and Spatial Objectives	Forward Planning Section