

**TITLE:** LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

**BY:** DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**TO/ON:** THE CABINET / 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2005

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

**STATUS:** FOR PUBLICATION

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report informs Elected Members about the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) process and details the key elements of the Council's first AMR currently being prepared for submission to the Secretary of State.
- 1.2 The report outlines the information being compiled, implications for the Rossendale Local Development Scheme (LDS), and requests delegated approval for the AMR to be submitted to Government Office for the North West by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members to be aware of and note the content of the Annual Monitoring Report.
- 2.2 Members to agree responsibility for the Annual Monitoring Report be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

**3. REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

**3.1 Background**

- 3.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (s.35) requires local planning authorities to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to inform the Secretary of State how the Local Development Scheme (LDS) is being implemented and the extent to which policies set out in Local Development Documents (LDDs) are being achieved.

3.3 Rossendale Borough Council must prepare its first AMR for submission to Government Office for the North West (GONW) by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

### 3.4 **Purpose and Scope of the Annual Monitoring Report**

3.5 The Government intends that AMRs are to be the main mechanism for the continual review and revision of LDFs.

3.6 The Annual Monitoring Report has several functions:

- to review actual progress of local development plan preparation against the timetable and milestones in the local development scheme;
- to assess the extent to which policies in the development plan are being implemented, or if not explain why and the steps being taken to ensure policy is being implemented; or is to be amended or replaced;
- to identify the significant effects of implementing policies and whether they are as intended; and
- to set out whether policies are to be amended or replaced.

3.7 The first AMR is required to address the period since the commencement of the new Planning Act (ie October 2004 to March 2005), although local authorities are encouraged to consider the entire year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004. Future AMRs will cover the previous year (i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March).

3.8 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has produced a Good Practice Guide to Preparing AMRs. This sets out what the Government is expecting in terms of LDF monitoring and places a more formal requirement on local planning authorities to monitor land use and policy implementation, within a more formal monitoring framework than was previously required. The ODPM is aware that the First AMRs will be unable to contain all the information that has been requested, given that local authorities have only just begun preparing their LDFs and are still drafting policies and identifying targets.

### 3.9 **Monitoring LDF Policies – Content of the Annual Monitoring Report**

3.10 The **Introduction** to the AMR will set out Rossendale's key contextual characteristics, issues, challenges and opportunities. This will draw upon work being undertaken as part of the Evidence Base and Sustainability Appraisal.

3.11 **Indicators** to monitor the LDF will be introduced in the AMR showing how the policies in the various documents are being used and contributing towards the LDF's vision and key objectives. As policies are currently being drawn up for the Core Strategy and the two Area Action Plans the First Rossendale AMR will discuss the types of indicators that may be monitored for future AMRs.

3.9 **Contextual Indicators** will be devised to describe the social, environmental and economic background against which the LDF policy operates. **Output Indicators** will assess how the LDF policies are performing. Several Core Output Indicators have been set by the Government (Update 1/2005, ODPM, October 2005), which will need to be addressed in the first AMR, where possible. In addition Local Output Indicators will be selected based on the key

spatial and sustainability objectives of the LDF. **Significant Effects Indicators** will be compiled which will assess the significant social, environmental and economic effects of the policies.

- 3.10 The Core Output indicators, the majority of which we expect to report on, are:
- **Business development** – the amount of employment land being developed by type (or redeveloped), and amount still available.
  - **Housing** – number of dwellings built, and future expected provision, measured against annual build rates.
  - **Transport** – amount of completed non-residential development complying with regional car parking standards.
  - **Local services** – amount of completed retail, office and leisure development; open space managed to Green Flag Award standard
  - **Flood protection & water quality** – permissions granted contrary to advice of the Environment Agency
  - **Biodiversity** – change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance
  - **Renewable Energy** – capacity installed by type.

### 3.11 Progress on Implementing Rossendale's Local Development Scheme

3.12 The AMR will report on the **Implementation of the Local Development Scheme**. Where milestones identified in the LDS have not been met, it will be necessary to explain the reasons behind this.

3.13 As a result of monitoring indicators, checking progress on implementing the LDS, and other factors, such as new government guidance, or changing local circumstances, it is likely that the AMR will suggest changes to the LDS. Not only may milestones need to be updated, but new local development documents may need to be introduced. The AMR should roll forward the LDS by another year too, to 2008. Any proposed revisions to the existing LDS will need to be discussed with GONW and be approved by Council, prior to formal submission before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

3.14 Rossendale Borough Council submitted its first LDS on time. However, the timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy, Area Action Plans and Statement of Community Involvement will slip owing to several factors. The primary cause has been the delay to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), which will affect local authorities in the North West. Other factors include internal Council working arrangements, the departure of senior staff, requirement for additional consultation and new information updating the Evidence Base, which has had significant implications for the development of options.

### 3.15 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.16 Members should be aware that the LDF is to be formally monitored. The Forward Planning section has already been monitoring various topics such as housing land supply and employment land take up. However, the future AMRs will require significant staff resources in devising a monitoring framework and collating and analysing information.

- 3.17 As the report needs to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> December it is suggested that approval be delegated. AMRs are a function of the Cabinet who can, if necessary delegate to an officer. Although the ODPM encourages member buy-in, AMRs do not need to be cleared by full council.

### **3.18 TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 3.19 This year's AMR will primarily deal with providing information on the Core Indicators and will explain work being undertaken to inform indicators in next year's AMR. The AMR will also outline progress on implementing the LDS. No formal amendments will be made to the LDS without approval of the Council. It is intended to submit the AMR to GONW by 31<sup>st</sup> December in line with the statutory deadline.

## **4. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES**

### **4.1 FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.2 Submitting the AMR is a requirement of the 2004 Planning Act, which may be a criteria in next year's Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) allocation.

### **4.3 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- 4.4 Members may visit [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk) to gain greater understanding of planning issues. Further information of the LDF and Planning Policy can also be viewed at [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk). The Forward Planning web page at [www.rossendale.gov.uk](http://www.rossendale.gov.uk) provides up to date information on Rossendale's LDF.

### **4.5 HUMAN RESOURCES**

Not applicable

### **4.6 ANY OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

Not applicable

## **5. RISK**

- 5.1 Not reporting on, in particular, the Core Indicators and implementation of the LDS, may reduce the Council's share of PDG. Also, a requirement of the tests for soundness of a development plan document is that there are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring of policies.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT**

- 6.1 The AMR is part of the new Local Development Framework for Rossendale. Development Plan Documents and the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West together form the Development Plan for Rossendale.

## **7. EQUALITIES ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT**

7.1 None, although the monitoring framework being developed may address equalities issues.

**8. WARDS AFFECTED**

Borough of Rossendale

**9. CONSULTATIONS**

Government Office North West

Internal consultation with RBC officers

**10. Background documents:**

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004
- Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks (ODPM, 2004)
- Planning Policy Statement 12 Companion Guide (ODPM, 2004)
- Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide (ODPM, March 2005)
- Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) – FAQs and Seminar Feedback on Emerging Best Practice 2004/05 (ODPM, Sept 2005)
- Local Development Framework Core Output Indicators Update 1/2005 (ODPM, Oct 2005)
- Regional Spatial Strategy (Regional Policy Guidance 13), NWRA
- Rossendale Local Development Scheme (RBC, March 2005)
- Integrated SEA/SA of Rossendale LDF – Scoping report (RBC, 2005)

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:

Anne Storaah (Senior Forward Planning Officer) [annestorah@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:annestorah@rossendalebc.gov.uk) or  
Stephen Pimlott (Planning Officer) [stephenpimlott@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:stephenpimlott@rossendalebc.gov.uk) in the Forward  
Planning Section on 01706 244794