

TITLE: ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS REPORT

TO/ON: THE CABINET / 29 MARCH 2006

BY: ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

STATUS: FOR PUBLICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents the Preferred Options Report stage of the development of the Core Strategy. The report sets out the purpose of the document and its role as apart of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and developing new planning policy for Rossendale.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For Cabinet to endorse the Issues and Options Report in order to then publish the document for consultation from 7th April 2006 for a minimum of 6 weeks.

3. REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 The Preferred Options Report is the second stage of the Core Strategy's preparation. It follows on from the evidence gathering work and Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and period of consultation during late November 2005 to early January 2006.
- 3.2 The results of the evidence gathering and consultation are summarised in a separate Consultation Summary Report and in an updated version of the Borough's Profile, which will be made available to view at www.rossendale.gov.uk/forwardplanning. The Consultation Summary, Borough Profile Reports and Sustainability Appraisal will be published for consultation with the Preferred Options Report.

- 3.3 As set out in the Forward Plan the Core Strategy will be published for consultation along with the Rawtenstall Town Centre Area Action Plan also at Preferred Options stage in order to provide a “suite” of documents for stakeholders and communities to comment on a gain a further understanding of the Local Development Framework.
- 3.4 It was originally set out in the Forward Plan for the Bacup, Stacksteads and Britannia AAP Preferred Options Report to form part of this “suite” of documents. Following the Issues and Option stage a number of exercises will be required in order for this document to meet the “Tests of Soundness” applied by the Planning Inspectorate. It is therefore anticipate that consultation on this document will be carried out in June 2006.
- 3.5 The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report sets out the preferred option spatial vision and objectives and a range of ‘Proposed Policy Responses’ following the evaluation of the representation received during the Issues and Options stage (see Appendix 2: Evaluation Matrices for further details).
- 3.6 The report provides a comment section for each ‘Preferred Policy Response’ and presents a summary of the relevant issues to ensure people can clearly see where the preferred options have come from.
- 3.7 In addition, the document has a ‘Wider Policy Links’ and ‘Study/Strategy Links’ section to provide stakeholders with clear guidance on what policies and information should be referred to when considering a development proposal or planning application.
- 3.8 Although the Council has some flexibility in the planning policies it wishes to include in the Rossendale Core Strategy, it is still required to be in conformity with national, regional and county planning documents and have regard to the Rossendale Community Strategy.
- 3.9 Once comments are received on this Preferred Options Report, Rossendale Borough Council will prepare a report setting out the preferred options for the Core Strategy. People will then be invited to give their views on the preferred options. These comments will then inform the draft Core Strategy that the Council will prepare. The draft Core Strategy is then submitted to the Government and will go through a public inquiry that will be led by a Government-appointed Inspector.

Structure of Document

- 3.5 **Section 2** provides a draft ‘Spatial Portrait’. This is a brief description of the Borough and it must be provided in the final Core Strategy. A draft ‘Spatial Portrait’ was provided at the Issues and Options stage to give people the opportunity to comment on the draft text. These comments have been received and have led to a revised ‘Spatial Portrait’ being prepared.
- 3.6 **Section 3** provides a summary of the policy context to which the Core strategy must conform (see Appendix 1 for detail on the national, regional and sub

regional policies it must conform to) to and sets out the Community Strategy objectives to which the Core strategy aims to deliver.

- 3.7 **Sections 4** sets out the methodology used to evaluate the Issues and Options in order to formulate the preferred options.
- 3.8 **Section 5** presents the preferred options spatial vision and objectives that will guide development and regeneration throughout the borough for the next 10 – 15 years.
- 3.9 **Section 6** sets out the Preferred Policy Options for the borough which are categorised as:
- Development Strategy
 - Living in Rossendale
 - Working in Rossendale
 - Enjoying and Managing Rossendale's
 - Environment Transport In and Around Rossendale
- 3.10 **Section 7** presents the Key Diagram; this is a statutory requirement that allows us to set out the main areas of urban growth, key transport corridors and priority regeneration areas for the borough.
- 3.11 **Section 8** sets out the Performance Monitoring Framework from which certain policies in the Core Strategy will have indicators built in that will be monitored annually and presented in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)
- 3.12 **Section 9** sets out the Next Steps for the Core Strategy's preparation.
- 3.13 The five themes set out in Section 6 of the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report reflect the policy themes proposed in the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and therefore assist in achieving consistency between the RSS and the Rossendale Core Strategy.
- 3.14 The current draft of the document is attached to this report. However the format of the document may change to provide information in a more accessible way and to reflect the emphasis on spatial planning. It should also be noted that changes to the document may occur between Cabinet briefing 8th March 2006 and Cabinet 29th March 2006 may be required

4. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

4.1. FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

4.2. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Information on the LDF can be viewed at www.rossendale.gov.uk/fowardplanning including the ODPM's guide to the planning system, introduction documents to the LDF and general planning policy information.

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was submitted to Government Office North West (GONW) on 30th January 2006 and will be published for consultation for 12 weeks from March 2006. The RSS is the regional planning policy document to which the Core Strategy must conform. This sets out a broad range of planning policy objectives including, housing and employment provision, transport and environment etc. Members can currently view this document at www.nwra.gov.uk

4.3. HUMAN RESOURCES

- 4.3.1. The Forward Planning team has interviewed for the vacant Planning Assistant position and has recruited a candidate who will be joining the team by April 2006.

5. ANY OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.1. The Forward Planning team has been prepared and submitted an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) on the 30th December 2005
- 5.2. The document provides comprehensive information regarding the implementation of the [Local Development Scheme](#) (LDS) and performance monitoring information on the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 5.3. The AMR is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and represents the starting point from which the Council will develop a performance and monitoring framework based on the policies set out in documents such as the Rawtenstall Town Centre AAP. This framework will ensure that planning policy and the potential impact on the social, economic and environmental well being of Rossendale will be continually assessed.
- 5.4. The document provides a comprehensive foundation from which performance indicators and effective monitoring can be developed through the preparation of a Rossendale LDF.

6. RISK

- 6.1 If the Core Strategy is not published for consultation during the period set out in the revised Local Development Scheme and therefore will not conform to BV200b Plan Making: Milestones Met?

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT

N/A

8. EQUALITIES ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT

N/A

9. WARDS AFFECTED

The Core Strategy will set out broad planning policy and objectives for the entire borough of Rossendale.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The Preferred Options Stage of the Core Strategy's preparation is subject to Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. This requires a local authority to provide Full public consultation in accordance Annex E of PPS12. Further details on consultation are set out in the 2nd Draft Statement of Community Involvement

11. Background documents:

- A) Town Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- B) Town Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Regulations
- C) Planning Policy Statement 12
- D) Planning Policy Statement 12 Companion Guide
- E) Submission Regional Spatial Strategy January 2006 (consultation March 2006)
- F) Joint Lancashire Structure Plan 2001 - 2016
- G) Rossendale Borough Council Local Development Scheme
- H) Rossendale Borough Profile

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

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