



CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

30th January 2008

Middlesbrough Local Development Framework – Regeneration Development Plan Document Submission Draft

Tim White – Director of Regeneration

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to submit the Middlesbrough Local Development Framework (LDF) Regeneration Development Plan Document (DPD) to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) for her consideration.

Background

2. This is the third stage in the preparation of the DPD. The process for preparing it, details of consultation to date, and the changes proposed to form the Submission draft are set out in the Council report of 9th January 2008. This is attached as Appendix A to this report. The proposed Submission draft DPD is attached as Appendix B.
3. A working draft of the Submission DPD was reported to meetings of the LDF member working group, the Executive Member for Regeneration, and Council on 9th January 2008. The purpose for this was to obtain approval to the principle of the changes being proposed to the DPD. The DPD was also considered by a meeting of the Overview Scrutiny Board on 21st January 2008. Matters raised at these meetings have been taken into consideration and where appropriate incorporated into the DPD. Detailed matters such as those raised in relation to linkages between the Town Centre and Middlehaven, and regeneration of Gresham will be dealt with via more detailed plans that will be prepared at a later date. These plans include the Greater Middlehaven Supplementary Planning Document, and Gresham Neighbourhood Action Plan.

4. The opportunity has been taken to improve the presentation of the DPD, and to undertake further discussion and assessment on the proposed housing allocations. This has now been completed.
5. Consultation on the Regeneration DPD will, in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement, involve the following:
 - i. placing statutory notices in the local press;
 - ii. issuing press releases;
 - iii. displaying posters in public places advertising the fact that the documents are available and where;
 - iv. making copies of the documents available in public libraries, and other appropriate local facilities;
 - v. placing the documents on the Council's Website;
 - vi. notifying key stakeholders about the availability of the document;
 - vii. sending copies of the documents to statutory consultees, including all community councils and cluster groups;
 - viii. preparation of an information leaflet that will be made available at various locations around town;
 - ix. formally notifying all of those who have submitted representations at previous stages of the process; and,
 - x. preparation of a static exhibition that can be placed at various points around the town during the consultation exercise.
6. Leading up to the Examination there will be a significant range of activities that will need to be rapidly progressed to meet with the timetable to examination. These include:
 - i. the requirement to consult on alternative sites put forward by objectors;
 - ii. the preparation of proofs of evidence/statements for the Examination, setting out in more detail the Council's position on specific policy matters; and,
 - iii. minor amendments to the DPD in the period leading up to the Examination which help ensure that it is considered to be sound.
7. In order to ensure that the above can be addressed it is proposed that delegated authority is given to the Director of Regeneration following consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration to make the necessary decisions. The LDF Member Working Group will be called as required to consider issues arising in respect of each of the above stages and will provide guidance to officers on the approach to be taken.

Recommendation

8. That members approve:
 - i. the LDF Regeneration DPD for the purposes of submission;
 - ii. the process of consultation as set out in paragraph 5 of this report; and,

- iii. that future minor changes, regarding preparation of the Regeneration DPD be delegated to the Director of Regeneration following consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration in accordance with the process set out in paragraph 6 of this report.

Reasons

9. The LDF is one of the Council's core policy documents, and is an important tool in the delivery of key initiatives such as Middlehaven and the Stockton-Middlesbrough Initiative. Supporting the above recommendation will enable progress to be made on the preparation and adoption of the LDF in accordance with the timetable agreed in the Local Development Scheme.