

South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

Report to the Board

Date of Meeting: 12th March 2008

Agenda Item: 7

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Issue

The Government has changed the way local authorities are required to prepare and adopt plans for the future long term physical development of their areas. Whereas the District Council was previously required to prepare a Local Plan, it will in future prepare a **Local Development Framework (LDF)**. This has important implications particularly in relation to the involvement of the LSP and the LDF's relationship with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Details

The LDF is a generic term for a number of different types of documents which together will set out the strategy for accommodating necessary growth to 2026 in line with the requirements of the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy. In doing so, it will set out the vision in the 'Core Strategy' which will establish overall patterns of development as well as general policies such as requirements for low carbon development, high quality urban design, affordable housing and the requirement for developer contributions for community facilities and major infrastructure. Other documents will allocate specific parcels of land to meet the growth needs established by the Core Strategy and identify land which is required to be protected from development.

The LDF is therefore an important plank in supporting the LSP's place-shaping role. LDFs are very different, however, from old-style Local Plans in certain key respects. In brief, there is a requirement for LDFs to:

- Involve local communities and other stakeholders in new and effective ways in drawing up plans and ensure engagement earlier on in the process;
- Be "place shaping" rather than merely 'land use' documents and provide the spatial expression of the Sustainable Community Strategy;
- Be based on sound evidence justifying policies with proof of how and when major developments and infrastructure will be delivered.

Crucially, LDF documents can only be adopted after having been independently judged against a set of nine 'tests of soundness' which reflect the above new principles.

It is therefore vital that emerging LDF documents are based upon, and are seen to be based upon, the LSP's Sustainable Community Strategy. The diagram attached as Annexe 1, which is an extract from the recent Government consultation "*Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance*", illustrates the new close relationship required between the LDF, the LAA and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Council is currently approaching the first stages of consultation on the formulation of the LDF 'Core Strategy' and formal submission to the Secretary of State is programmed for March 2009. Prior to Submission, and particularly between Spring and Winter this year, there will need to be a number of rounds of informal and targeted consultation on 'issues and options' including with the LSP.

There is therefore a need for the LSP to (a) be closely involved with its partners in identifying LDF issues and formulating development options; and (b) consider what arrangements are necessary to enable this to happen.

Recommendations:

1. The Board note the change from a system of preparing Local Plans to Local Development Frameworks, the current work being undertaken on the South Derbyshire LDF Core Strategy and the need for the LSPs future active involvement
2. A report be brought to a future meeting setting out the new arrangements in more detail and suggesting how the above issues can most effectively be addressed

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Annexe 1

