

RURAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

16 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

DRAFT MELTON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report brings to the Committee the Draft Melton Local Development Scheme 2011 (MLDS) (see Appendix 1).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Committee approves the Draft Melton Local Development Scheme 2011 for submission to the Secretary of State**
- 2.2 **That subject to no objection from the Secretary of State the Draft Melton Local Development Scheme be adopted.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES/BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Melton Local Development Scheme (MLDS) is the Council's public statement of its programme for producing documents that will together form the Melton Local Development Framework. The first MLDS was adopted by the Council in November 2005. The first revision to the MLDS was adopted by the Council on 6 June 2007 after approval by the Secretary of State (subject to amendments). A revision was commenced last year and submitted to the previous Secretary of State but was not progressed to adoption due the change in Government and associated changes to the planning system.

- 3.2 Local planning authorities should keep to the timetables agreed in local development schemes. The process continues to require submission of the Local Development Scheme to the Government although it is not clear whether the current Secretary of State will exercise his powers to intervene in the setting of a programme by a local planning authority. Nevertheless, the Secretary of State may judge the programme by taking the following matters into account:

- 1) Is any postponement of milestones justified by reference to special circumstances?
- 2) Does the LDS reflect government priorities on subject matter?
- 3) Is the LDS realistic in programme management terms, taking into account the resources available?
- 4) Does the LDS take proper account of the need to produce a robust evidence base and the time and resources this will take?

- 3.4 The MLDF includes a programme for the preparation of three development plan documents (DPDs):

- Core Strategy;
- Sustainable Urban Extension Area Action Plan
- Land Allocations and Settlement Boundaries;

- 3.5 Appendix 1 contains the Draft Local Development Scheme 2011 as considered by the Melton Local Development Framework Task Group.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The MLDS will establish the programme for the production of the Council's local development documents (LDD).

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no specific financial implications for the production of the MLDS document. The statutory procedure for the production of the DPDs contained in the MLDS programme will require significant budgetary provisions.

5.2 The draft MLDS includes a section on resources.

5.3 The New Homes Bonus is expected to continue to reward local authority performance in delivering housing growth.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 A local development scheme is required to be prepared by a local planning authority under the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no community safety implications concerning this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 There are no equalities implications relating to this report.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 The Local Development Scheme sets out the development plan documents which will be produced and when they are going to be produced. It is vital that local authorities do their utmost to adhere to this timetable. If they do not:

- development which is needed for the benefit of current and future residents of the area may be delayed or even shelved;
- the coordination of the allocation of land for housing and the necessary supporting infrastructure will be difficult to achieve; and
- the public and other stakeholders will lose confidence in the plan making process.

9.2 A risk assessment is included in the draft MLDS.

10.0 CONSULTATION

10.1 The draft MLDS has been the subject of discussions and negotiations with key stakeholders, including Leicestershire County Council.

11.0 WARDS AFFECTED

11.1 The Melton Local Development Framework will be borough-wide.

12.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

12.1 There are no climate change implications relating to this report.

Contact Officer: David Pendle
Date: 1 February 2011
Appendices Appendix 1
Background Papers: Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning