

SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (THE JOINT COMMITTEE)

Report of the Joint Policy Unit Manager

To: Joint Committee - 9 September 2011

Author: Gary Alexander, Joint Policy Unit Manager

Subject: Draft Local Development Scheme for South East Lincolnshire

Purpose: To seek approval for a Local Development Scheme for South East Lincolnshire to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- a) Members consider the contents of this report and the attached Draft Local Development Scheme (Draft LDS);
- b) agree to submit the Draft LDS, with or without revisions, to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Secretary of State) by 30th September 2011; and
- c) that subject to a satisfactory response from the Secretary of State, the LDS shall have effect from 31st October 2011.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will be aware that on 5th July 2011 the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee Order 2011 came into force (2011 No.1455). This Order establishes a Joint Strategic Planning Committee (Joint Committee) for the areas of the districts of Boston and South Holland (known collectively as South East Lincolnshire). The constituent authorities are Lincolnshire County Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council.
- 1.2 Article 4(2) modifies section 15 of the 2004 Act so as to require the Joint Committee to submit its 'local development scheme' for South East Lincolnshire to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (the Secretary of State) no later than 30th September 2011. In order to meet this deadline, the Joint Committee needs to approve a draft version of the LDS, with or without revisions, at its first meeting on 9th September 2011.
- 1.3 Officers have prepared a draft LDS, attached as Appendix 1, for Members' consideration.

2.0 THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

- 2.1 The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended, requires that every local planning authority should prepare and maintain a scheme to be known as its local development scheme (LDS). In the case of the Joint Committee, the purpose of the LDS is to provide a public statement of its rolling programme (covering a minimum period of three years) for the production of

local development documents (LDDs) that will comprise its South East Lincolnshire Local Plan¹ and the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

- 2.2 The LDS is basically a project plan with a particular focus on the next three years or so, and will be a living document that can be updated and amended annually. The LDS for South East Lincolnshire covers planned work commencing in October of this year and running through to the beginning of 2016 and sets out details of the documents whose preparation will be given priority during this period.
- 2.3 Under current Regulations, all new and revised LDSs relating to areas outside London must be submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration. It is not possible for a local planning authority to bring its LDS into effect without the Secretary of State indicating, in effect, that he is satisfied with its contents.
- 2.4 The Government is presently consulting on draft new 'Local planning regulations' - the subject of a separate report on the agenda for the Joint Committee's meeting on 9th September - which include the deletion of the specific requirement to submit a LDS to the Secretary of State. It is expected that the new regulations will come into force sometime in the early part of 2012.

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT LDS

- 3.1 Members are asked to pay particular attention to the proposal to deliver the Local Plan in two parts: a **Strategy and Policies** development plan document (DPD) followed by a **Site Allocations** DPD. Also worth noting is the intent to achieve the adoption of the Strategy and Policies DPD and to submit the Site Allocations DPD to the Secretary of State by the time of the next District Council elections.

4.0 VIEWS OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND STRATEGY, BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL AND THE PLANNING MANAGER, BRECKLAND COUNCIL AND SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 4.1 The Planning Manager, Breckland and South Holland District Councils, advises 'that the LDS is a critical requirement of the Local Plan process. It is often referred to as a project plan. It plays an important role in establishing the timetabling and mechanisms which will enable the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning to progress preparation of its now joint Local Plan over the three-year period 2011-2014 and beyond. The LDS will need to be kept up to date and Members should note that the LDS, as a living document, will need to be revised on at least an annual basis. The preparation of the Joint Local Plan itself will have resource implications on each authority which can presently be met from previously set-aside joint funds. It is recommended that Members agree the contents of the Draft LDS set out in Appendix 1 to this report'.
- 4.2 The Head of Planning and Strategy for Boston Borough Council has been consulted and has offered no views as he is on annual leave.
- 4.3 The Monitoring Officer for Breckland Council and South Holland District Council has been consulted and has offered no views.

¹ In order to be consistent with the Coalition Government's current planning terminology, the term 'local development framework' has been replaced by 'local plan'.

4.4 The s151 Officer for Boston Borough Council has been consulted and has offered no views.

4.5 The Strategic Planning Manager, Monitoring Officer and s151 Officer for Lincolnshire County Council have been consulted and have offered no views.

5.0 OPTIONS

5.1 Members can accept the contents of the Draft LDS or request amendments to it.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 There is a current statutory requirement for the new Joint Committee to submit its LDS to the Secretary of State by the 30th September 2011.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 **Risk:** There is a risk that the Secretary of State will, following consideration of the LDS, require amendments to it before the Joint Committee can bring it into effect.

7.2 **Financial:** There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations to this report.

7.3 **Legal:** See para 5.1

Equality and Diversity: There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from the recommendations to this report. However, it is a requirement of the LDS, and indeed all Local Plan documents, that equality and diversity issues are fully considered and taken on board. The SCI will ensure that all Local Plan documents involve widespread consultation and the full participation of residents and businesses within both Boston Borough and South Holland District. The views, needs and aspirations of each district's diverse populace will in this manner be reflected in subsequent plans and policies aimed at meeting the various needs of all societal groupings.

8.0 WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

8.1 The implications of the proposed new Local Plan documents affect all wards/communities.

Background papers - None

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Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix 1: Draft Local Development Scheme

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