

COPELAND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2016

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of the work programme for the *Copeland Local Plan: Site Allocations and Policies Plan* and other Local Plan documents, the resources required and available to do this, and how this will be presented in the updated Local Development Scheme 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve the Local Development Scheme as the Council's work programme for producing the Copeland Local Plan between 2016 and 2018.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme sets out the work programme for producing Local Plan documents. It describes all the documents that will comprise the Local Plan, what they will contain, and how and when they will be produced.
- 1.2 The most recent version was published in March 2012 and primarily focussed on the production of the *Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028: Core Strategy and Development Management Policies* and a number of Supplementary Planning Documents to support development around Whitehaven.
- 1.3 As most of these documents have now been completed, and the period covered by Local Development Scheme has passed, it is now time to produce an updated version that will look ahead to what the Council needs to between now and the end of 2018.
- 1.4 The main priority for the next three years will be to produce the *Site Allocations and Policies Plan*. In addition to this we will also produce a Supplementary Planning Document to maximise developer contributions and a shopfront design guide, together with any further documents that may be required to support delivery of the Local Plan and ensure that legacy from nuclear new build is maximised.
- 1.5 It is also likely that a series of Development Briefs and/or Masterplans will be required to guide development to support Nugen (both on the proposed

accommodation sites and for the supply chain) as well as the housing growth the Council is planning for.

2.0 THE CONTENT OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2016

2.1 The Local Development Scheme 2016 will focus on the production of the Local Plan documents and its supporting evidence base. It will outline the scope, content and status of each planning document that comprises the Local Plan together with the process and timescales for future documents that are still to be produced.

2.2 It will also explain the resources required and available to the Council to enable the production. This encompasses the Strategic Planning team, other teams within the Council, the resource available from Arup as backfill for Council officers who are involved with the Moorside and North West Coast Connections projects, and external consultants where appropriate.

2.3 As discussed paragraph 1.4, the main piece of work will be to complete the *Site Allocations and Policies Plan*. There has been a number of significant changes since the initial Preferred Options consultation in January 2015, including:

- The need for a planning framework to achieve positive legacy from Nugeneration Ltd's worker accommodation sites
- A requirement to consider identifying appropriate areas for wind energy
- The promotion of Starter Homes and Self Build/Custom Build Housing by Government

These changes mean that the Council will be producing a second Preferred Options document to allow for proper consideration of newly emerging options before producing the final *Site Allocations and Policies Plan* ready to submit to the Secretary of State later in 2017.

2.4 Another document that will be very important in maximising benefits from the anticipated growth will be a *Planning Contributions Supplementary Planning Document*. This will provide the framework for ensuring that developments make the greatest contributions to support local infrastructure and we intend to produce this within the next twelve months.

2.5 The final document that the Council intends to produce in the short term is a Shopfront Design Supplementary Planning Document. This will help improve the quality of developments and refurbishments in the town centres, making them more

attractive for residents and visitors alike. The work for this will be led by the Council's THI officer.

3.0 KEY MILESTONES IN THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

3.1 The Local Development Scheme identifies the key milestones for the production of Local Plan documents. These can be summarised as follows:

3.2 Site Allocations and Policies Plan:

- Consultation on Preferred Options – **December 2016 to February 2017**
- Consultation on Pre-Submission document – **July and August 2017**
- Submission to the Secretary of State for Examination – **November 2017**
- Public Examination Hearing Sessions – **April 2018**
- Receive Inspector's Report – **July 2018**
- Adopt the Site Allocations and Policies Plan – **September 2018**

3.3 *Planning Contributions SPD:*

- Consultation on draft document – **January/February 2017**
- Adoption – **June 2017**

3.4 *Shopfront Design SPD:*

- Consultation on draft document – **June/July 2017**
- Adoption – **December 2017**

3.5 The full programme and milestones are shown in the table in Appendix 1, and the Local Development Scheme will follow as Appendix 2.

APPENDICES

- Appendix One: Draft Programme Chart
- Appendix Two: Draft Local Development Scheme 2016 (to follow)

