

CABINET REFERRALS TO COUNCIL

CABINET – 14 JANUARY 2010

(i) MINUTE 260 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – APPROVAL OF AMENDED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services reported that following the resolution of Cabinet on 23 July 2009 (minute 63 refers) that a revised Local Development Scheme for Wirral should be submitted for the approval of the Secretary of State, the revised Scheme had now been approved by the Secretary of State by letter on 23 November 2009. A resolution of Council was now required to bring the final Scheme into legal effect.

The report also recommended the distribution of the annual award of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) for 2009/10.

Resolved – That Cabinet recommends to Council that,

(1) the Local Development Scheme attached to the Director's report, as approved by the Secretary of State, be approved; and

(2) it resolves to bring the approved Local Development Scheme into legal effect on the Monday following the date the resolution of Council is passed;

(3) the HPDG be distributed with £9,915 allocated to the Department of Regeneration for the publication of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment; £27,000 allocated to the preparation of the Joint Waste DPD; and the remainder allocated to support the continued preparation of the Core Strategy DPD;

(4) in the event that the provisional allocation of HPDG is altered, that the final award of grant is distributed on a similar basis.

(ii) MINUTE 261 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EVIDENCE BASE – STRATEGY FOR RETAIL, TOWN CENTRES AND COMMERCIAL LEISURE

The Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services informed members of the findings of the Strategy for Retail, Town Centre and Commercial Leisure produced by Roger Tym and Partners on behalf of the Council as part of the evidence base for the Wirral Local Development Framework. The report summarised the main aspects of the study encompassing the key recommendations to the Council, including the recommendation that the Strategy for Town Centres, Retail and Commercial Leisure be approved as a material consideration for use by Planning Committee in the determination of planning applications; that the findings of the Study be used to inform the content of the emerging Core Strategy Development Plan Document and that the findings of the Strategy be used to inform the delivery of Investment Strategy priorities.

Having circulated an amended recommendation to the Cabinet, it was then moved by Councillor Stapleton, duly seconded and -

Resolved – That,

(1) Cabinet confirms the designation of Birkenhead as a sub regional centre and supports Options 5 and 6 for meeting future retail and leisure needs in addition to an allowance for growth for existing retail centres across Wirral and recommends to Council that the Strategy for Town Centres, Retail and Commercial Leisure be approved as a material consideration for use by Planning Committee in the determination of planning applications, except for the status of Oxton Road and Grange Road West, where the recommendations in the report are contrary to the Core Strategy Development Plan Core Document, previously approved for public consultation;

(2) the Council will continue to support proposals for retail development coming forward within existing centres and the new Government Planning Policy Statement 4 retains a clear “Town Centres First” approach to retail development;

(3) in Liscard, for example we have granted Planning Permission for redevelopment of the Cherry Tree Centre and we continue to encourage the owners to implement the scheme;

(4) the findings of the Strategy be used to inform the content of the emerging Core Strategy Development Plan Document;

(5) the findings of the Strategy be used to inform the delivery of Investment Strategy priorities;

(6) in addition, Cabinet requests that as part of the current consultation on the Spatial Options that views be sought on whether any other local shopping areas should be considered for possible inclusion as “local centres” within the LDF Core Strategy;

(7) Cabinet requests further reports be produced –

(a) on the interventions and recommendations made in the consultants’ report in the following areas, following consultation with the centres affected and the local area forums and other local stakeholders as appropriate:

Hoylake town centre

New Ferry town centre

New Brighton (Seabank Road)

Seacombe (Borough Road/Poulton Road)

Wallasey Village

Irby Village

(b) setting out options to deal with the derelict sites identified within the Prenton (Woodchurch Road) centre;

(c) setting out options to address the requirement for additional car parking spaces in Moreton town centre;

(d) setting out options, following consultation with stakeholders,

(iii) MINUTE 268 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Director of Technical Services reported that in November 2007, the Department for Transport (DfT) had approved a Local Transport Capital settlement for Wirral of £7,684,000 for 2010/11. He set out a proposed Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme for approval based on this settlement.

Resolved - That the LTP Capital Programme, as set out in the Director's report, be approved.