

Maidstone Borough Council

Local Development Document Task and Finish Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday 3 August 2011

URGENT ITEM: Core Strategy Regulation 25 Consultation

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer

1. Reason for Urgency

This urgent item is due to legal consultation having been sought.

2. Introduction

2.1 The Task and Finish Scrutiny Panel has been appointed by the Regeneration & Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee to take on the advisory function to the Executive during the Local Development Document process as well as the role of Overview and Scrutiny within the policy framework process.

2.2 The Scrutiny Panel met on 19 July 2011 and gained an understanding of the process within the documents forming the Local Development Documents and interviewed Flo Churchill, Interim Head of Core Strategy, and Sue Whiteside, Team Leader Spatial Policy.

3. Recommendation

3.1 The Scrutiny Panel is requested to consider the Core Strategy and its appendices to agree that the Development Plan Document (DPD) is fit for public consultation purposes.

4. Local Development Documents

4.1 The Core Strategy report attached at **Appendix A** will be presented to Cabinet on 10 August 2011 when Cabinet approval to commence public participation consultation on the draft DPD and its appendices will be sought. In accordance with the Core Strategy timetable, the consultation will commence on 2 September 2011 for a period of 6 weeks.

4.2 Following public participation consultation, there will be a formal round of consultation of the Publication version of the Core Strategy before the DPD is approved by Council for submission to the Secretary of State. Further reports will be presented to the Local Development Document Task and Finish Scrutiny Panel as the Core Strategy progresses, to enable the Scrutiny Panel to consider the representations received from both consultations, and to agree any resultant officer recommendations to amend the Core Strategy.

4.3 Subject to Cabinet approving the Core Strategy on 10 August 2011, key DRAFT dates for 2011/12 are:

- 10 August 2011 – Cabinet approval of Public Participation version of the Core Strategy;
- 2 September to 14 October 2011 – 6 weeks public participation consultation;
- 24 January 2012 – LDD Task & Finish Panel consideration of Publication version of the Core Strategy;
- 8 February 2012 – Cabinet approval of the Publication version of the Core Strategy; and
- 24 February to 10 April 2012 – 6 weeks publication consultation.

Then:

- Submission to the Secretary of State July 2012;
- Examination October/November 2012; and
- Adoption March 2013.

5. Impact on Corporate Objectives

5.1 The new Strategic Plan 2011-15 sets out a priority for Maidstone to 'have a growing economy' and 'to be a decent place to live'. The Local Development Framework with its supporting documents is a priority for the Council.