

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

MEETING: DEVELOPMENT PLAN PANEL

DATE : 18 July 2006

**SUBJECT : Leeds Local Development Framework
Core Strategy 'Towards a Key Issues & Options' Paper**

Electoral Wards Affected :
ALL

Specific Implications For :

Ethnic Minorities
Women
Disabled People

Executive Function

Eligible for Call In

Not eligible for Call In
(details contained in the report)

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report, is for the Development Plan Panel to consider the LDF Towards a Key Issues & Options Paper, as a basis to undertake initial informal (Regulation 25) consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 From earlier reports to the Development Plan Panel, members will recall that following reforms to the Development Planning system (introduced through the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004), local authorities are required to prepare a Core Strategy as an integral part of the Local Development Framework. The purpose of this strategy is to provide an overarching framework for the preparation of Local Development Documents.
- 2.2 In providing the strategic context for these documents (and to provide a link with the Regional Spatial Strategy – to which it must be in conformity), is the need to prepare a 'high level' "**Core Strategy**". Drawing upon the UDP, Vision for Leeds and a series of related strategies and drivers for change, the Core Strategy needs to set out a strategic land use and spatial planning framework for Leeds.

3. TOWARDS A KEY ISSUES & OPTIONS PAPER

- 3.1 Following an initial brain storming workshop, the establishment of a small project team within Planning & Economic Policy and consultation within the City Council a 'Towards a Key Issues & Options Paper' has been prepared for Development Plan Panel's initial consideration (attached as Appendix 1).
- 3.2 The paper is divided in to 5 main sections, providing an overall introduction to the Core Strategy (1), the Context for the preparation of the Strategy (2), an analysis of Future

Directions & Drivers for Change (3), the identification of the Core Strategy Vision and Principles (4) and Core Strategy Key Issues and Options. Further background information is also provided as appendices to the issues paper. These comprise, the Cores Strategy Local Development Scheme timetable, a summary of the Planning Policy Statement requirements in the preparation of LDF Core Strategies, a summary of 'Key Drivers' and related strategies and a framework for the overall approach to sustainable development

- 3.3 Section 3 of the document summaries the overall structure of the emerging strategy and section 4 sets out a series of detailed issues and potential policy options. This is the main area of the document, which is intended to prompt debate regarding the scope, content and direction of the overall strategy.
- 3.4 Within this context, there are a number of major opportunities and challenges in developing the Core Strategy. Appendix 3 of the issues paper provides a summary of the interrelated drivers and strategies which have an influence on the Core Strategy, which to some extent 'set a direction of overall travel'. These influences in turn will need to be supplemented by further information and evidence as this is developed. An important factor also, in seeking to deliver the intent of these drivers and strategies and setting where appropriate a new direction through the Core Strategy, is the need to achieve environmental, economic and social objectives at the same time – which are in the best interests of the City now and in the future. In seeking to provide an integrated model for how these issues might be integrated, the final appendix of the issues paper sets out a framework for the Core Strategy for how sustainable development considerations can be linked.
- 3.5 As noted in para. 2.2 above, a fundamental aspect of the LDF Core Strategy is that it must be in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). Clearly, whilst much of the new draft RSS is generally consistent with the Vision for Leeds, Leeds Corporate Plan and the UDP, members have previously raised concerns regarding the proposed housing requirement for Leeds, which is in excess of current requirements. This matter is due to be debated further through the RSS Examination in Public (September – October) and the outcome of the EiP will have implications for the LDF in relation to housing and potentially other policy areas.
- 3.6 In the presentation of the LDF Core Strategy, a "Key Diagram" will also need to be prepared. Some initial thoughts on this will also be tabled at Development Plan Panel and subject to members comments, it is proposed to undertake further work on the Core Strategy (and related Key Diagram) – linked to alternative future scenarios/options, to be used for consultation purposes.
- 3.7 Within the context of the emerging Core Strategy issues paper, a draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has also been prepared and has been included as Appendix 2 to this report. As noted above, this is an interim *draft* Scoping Report which may need to be revised in the light of members comments on the Core Strategy paper and as a consequence of undertaking further work on baseline information, prior to consultation with the 4 statutory bodies (English Heritage, English Nature, Countryside Commission and Environment Agency).

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Following consideration of member's initial comments on the emerging Core Strategy paper, it is proposed to undertake further work in developing the Strategy through the use of alternative future scenarios/options and to report back to Development Plan Panel. Concurrent with this, further work will be undertaken on finalising the

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report, prior to consultation with the statutory bodies highlighted in para. 3.7 above.

- 4.2 In taking the Core Strategy work forward, a public consultation programme is also being developed for the autumn, consistent with the principles set out in the draft Statement of Community involvement. Within this context, facilitated by the Leeds Initiative, a major partnership event to discuss the Core Strategy is being planned for 11 September. More specific details of the consultation arrangements will be reported to Development Plan Panel in due course.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Members are asked to:

- i) Comment on the overall scope and content of the Core Strategy document.