

HEREFORDSHIRE UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (UDP): INSPECTOR'S REPORT

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: ENVIRONMENT

CABINET

26TH JANUARY, 2006

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To agree a method for considering the recommendations of the Inspector following the UDP Inquiry.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation

THAT the UDP Working Group be re-convened to allow initial consideration of the Inspector's recommendations, advising Cabinet accordingly.

Reasons

Each of the Inspector's recommendations have to be considered by the local planning authority. A method is required to facilitate Cabinet's consideration of the Inspector's recommendations which should provide for the incorporation of the views of the Planning and Scrutiny functions, prior to final approval by Council.

Considerations

1. The UDP Inquiry was held between February – June 2005. The Inspector's Report is expected to be submitted to the Council before the end of the financial year and with this in mind it is prudent to establish a process for its consideration.
2. On receipt of the Report, the Council has eight weeks to make it available to the public.
3. The Council must decide whether to accept or reject each of the Inspector's recommendations. Reasons must be provided in any cases where the Inspector's recommendations are rejected. The outcome of this process is recorded in a document called the Statement of Decisions and Reasons.
4. In a number of instances, accepting the Inspector's recommendations will lead to modifications being proposed to the Plan. There will also be a number of modifications which the Council will wish to put forward to reflect factual changes. All Proposed Modifications are set out in a separate document.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from David Nicholson, Forward Planning Manager on 01432 261952

5. The Statement of Decisions and Reasons and the Proposed Modifications documents are then subject to a further six week public deposit period. A sustainability appraisal and other supporting documentation will also be required. Objections and representations may be made to both the Proposed Modifications and in respect of any cases where the Council do not intend to accept a recommendation of the Inspector.
6. In order to facilitate consideration of the Inspector's recommendations, it is proposed to re-convene the UDP Working Group. This Group was first established by Cabinet in 2003 to consider representations to the original draft Plan, under the chairmanship of the Cabinet member (Environment), and performed a similar role in 2004 in respect of representations to the Revised Deposit Draft. It is proposed that as before the Group comprise:
 - Cabinet members for Environment (Chair) and Highways and Transportation
 - Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Environment Scrutiny Committee
 - Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Planning Committee
7. The views of local members on Inspector recommendations affecting sites in their wards will be sought as part of the process.
8. The response to the Inspector's recommendations should be considered through the Group, Cabinet and Council in order to allow the public deposit of documents in the autumn. It is envisaged that this stage will commence in September, with a view to adoption of the Plan in March 2007. UDP policies will be saved for a three year period from the date of adoption whilst replacement elements of the Local Development Framework are prepared in accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme.

Risk Management

Consideration of the Inspector's recommendations is a statutory requirement in the plan making process.

Consultees

None.

Background Papers

None identified.