



Report of	Meeting	Date
Joint LDF Officer Team	Central Lancashire LDF Joint Advisory Committee	29 January 2009

OVERVIEW REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To explain the key reasons for having a meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee at this time.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the report be noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. To help Members appreciate the reasons for the Committee meeting this report sets out those matters which are timely to deal with. The main reasons relates to the Growth Point but now is also an opportunity to update Members how the recent consultation stage on the Core Strategy went and was responded to, refer to ongoing housing land work and point to the scope to do and resource further LDF joint working.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

4. To ensure Members appreciate the significance of the meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. To not introduce the other agenda items.

BACKGROUND

6. Members will appreciate that meetings of the Joint Advisory Committee are only arranged when these are necessary. This will mean an irregular frequency of dates so it is important for Members to appreciate at the outset of each meeting why it is being held. It is intended that this type of overview report will always be the first on each agenda from now on.

REASONS FOR MEETING

7. The main reason for meeting now is that the Core Strategy is approaching the point when decisions about its content need to be made in the context of the Growth Point. The Councils will very soon need to decide whether or not to commit to the Growth Point. If they do then an interim revised of the Core Strategy will, as pointed out in the Preferred version, need to be prepared, approved and consulted on. A later report on this agenda indicates the sorts of changes that would be required in such an eventuality.
8. Now is also a timely opportunity to give Members a review of what publicity and engagement efforts were made to draw attention to and get involvement in the Preferred Core Strategy. The report also includes a brief insight into the range of representations that have been received, although a full report will be presented to a future JAC meeting. Also to help Members to understand some of these representations, a report explaining relevant policies of the finalised Regional Spatial Strategy is included in the agenda.
9. It is also considered pertinent to explain the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment work that is on-going as this essential piece of evidence is reaching an important stage and its intended outcomes should not be misunderstood.
10. Finally Members need to appreciate the wider opportunities for joint working in addition to the Core Strategy. These would bring further economies and support the Core Strategy preparation. If the Growth Point goes ahead, a speeding up of the LDF process would be a consistent response and an appropriate expectation as any housing sites brought forward through the Growth Point would need to be first identified in the development plan. However the Growth Point has associated funding that could be used to increase the staff resource available for LDF work.
11. The programming of LDF work in each authority is required to be included in a Local Development Scheme. Taking account of all the above it is timely to flag up with Members the need to revise the Schemes of work. There is scope to firm up these ideas with a further report to Members at a future JAC meeting before the GONW deadline of the end of March.
12. In the meantime attached at Appendix 1 are the existing milestones for the two most important LDF documents as included in the currently in-force Schemes that were prepared in 2007. The inclusion of a table such as this is intended to be a regular feature of JAC meeting agenda papers from now on so that Members can check at a glance the current stage of progress against that expected.

There are no background papers to this report.

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