

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 22 FEBRUARY 2007**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME UPDATE  
NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**Report by:** John Clements, Head of Policy and Plans

**Summary:**

At its last meeting the Authority approved a revised Local Development Scheme for submission to the Government. Further minor revisions have since been made to the document in response to new comments from the Government Office for the South East. It is now anticipated that the Government Office will 'approve' the (further revised) Local Development Scheme in advance of the Authority Meeting, but after the drafting of this report. Assuming that clearance from the Government Office has been received as expected, the Authority may now formally bring the Scheme into effect.

The Authority is required to produce a Local Development Scheme under the new planning system introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and to keep this Scheme under review. The Local Development Scheme sets out a three year programme for the production of Local Development Documents and other components of the Local Development Framework. The Local Development Scheme itself becomes part of that Framework, and will also be used to judge the Authority's future performance in plan-making and to determine the Authority's allocation of Planning Delivery Grant (and its proposed successor Housing and Planning Delivery Grant).

The content of the Scheme takes into account discussions with New Forest District Council over joint working, and successive comments and advice received from the Government Office for the South East.

The Local Development Scheme is set out at **Annex 1**.

**Recommendation:**

**That, subject to prior 'approval' by the Government Office, the Authority resolves that the further revised Local Development Scheme attached at Annex 1 shall have effect from 23 February 2007.**

**Resources and Corporate Plan:**

Not significant.

**Corporate Plan Objective A4** – Develop spatial planning policies to support the delivery of the National Park purposes and duties, working jointly with constituent and adjacent authorities.

**Other major considerations:**

None

**Papers:**

NFNPA 165/07	cover paper
Annex 1	further revised Local Development Scheme
Annex 2	Authority Meeting report on draft Local Development Scheme: 18 January 2007
Annex 3	Authority Meeting report on draft Local Development Scheme: 15 June 2006

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**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a new spatial planning system based on a portfolio of planning documents known collectively as the Local Development Framework. The Act requires local planning authorities to prepare a Local Development Scheme. This is a publicly available outline programme identifying which local development documents will be produced, and when. The Scheme sets out the Authority's planning policy development and review priorities for a three year period, and is to be reviewed annually.
- 1.2 Members considered and approved a draft Local Development Scheme at the Authority meeting on 15 June 2006 (report NFNPA 103/06 **Annex 3**). Following discussions with the Government Office for the South East and New Forest District Council a number of revisions were made and a revised version of the Scheme was approved by the Authority on 18 January (report NFNPA 155/07 **Annex 2**). Following submission of this document further comments were received from the Government Office seeking yet further changes, all relatively minor. These changes are summarised in the section below and incorporated into the document at **Annex 1**. (Note that the Appendix to the Scheme has not been included as this is a long and purely descriptive schedule of existing policies and likely to be of limited interest.)

**2 Changes Made Since Previous Authority Approval**

- 2.1 The changes made since approval by the Authority in January are:
- Minor changes to wording regarding relative status of national and regional, etc., policy
  - Qualification of assumption that Structure Plan policies would be saved for a further period
  - Extension of the timeline shown in the Gantt chart to include the commencement and completion of all documents currently in preparation, even where this extends beyond the 3 year programme period

- Re-definition of the 'chain of conformity' link between proposed documents and the relevant superior/preceding development plan documents
- Identification of month rather than quarter in some places
- Amendment of timing of Pre-Examination Meeting and Inspector's Report for the Waste and Minerals Sites Development Plan Documents (within the overall timescale)
- Highlighting in the Schedule of local plan policies appended to the Scheme the different periods for which different classes of policy are currently saved
- Clarification that the example given of evidence base work was not a complete list
- Addition of an indication of staff resources in the Policy and Plans team.

### **3 The Next Stages**

- 3.1 It is now anticipated that, as all the comments received have been addressed, the further revised Local Development Scheme (**Annex 1**) will be acceptable to the Government Office. Confirmation of this is awaited at the time of writing of this report, but expected before the Authority's Meeting. Once such confirmation has been received the Authority may formally bring the Local Development Scheme into effect on a specified date. Once in effect it will form part of the New Forest National Park Local Development Framework, and be made available for inspection by the public.

#### **Recommendation:**

**That, subject to prior 'approval' by the Government Office, the Authority resolves that the further revised Local Development Scheme attached at Annex 1 shall have effect from 23 February 2007.**