NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 15 DECEMBER 2005

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY: DRAFT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Report by: Peter Nelson, planning consultant

Summary:

1. This paper describes the first draft of the National Park Authority’s Local Development Scheme (the Scheme). It takes into account advice provided by the members’ working group.

2. The draft Scheme at Annex A describes the requirements for preparing documents under the new planning procedures introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It also gives details of those documents that we are required to include in the Scheme.

3. The Authority can also choose to produce a number of additional Development Plan Documents, which could be inserted into the draft Scheme before it is finalised in March 2006. The paper discusses the factors that will influence the National Park Authority’s decision on which additional documents, if any, should be included.

Recommendation:

To approve the current draft Scheme as the basis for consultation with adjacent authorities and with the Government Office of the South East, subject to any amendments proposed and agreed at the Authority’s meeting.

Resources:

Permanent staff input and planning consultancy support as required.

Other major considerations:

None
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The Draft Scheme

1. This report describes the draft Local Development Scheme (the draft Scheme) attached as Annex A. The draft Scheme defines the Authority’s intended programme of work on preparing planning policy documents over a three year period from 1 April 2006. This programme is subject to annual review.

2. The draft Scheme is intended to explain to the public the nature and content of the planning documents that will be contained within the National Park Authority’s Local Development Framework (the Framework). It also emphasises the process for plan preparation and its relationship to the National Park purposes, the National Park Management Plan and Community Strategies. A key message in the Scheme is the Authority’s intention to place public consultation and involvement at the forefront of planning.

3. The draft Scheme consists of five sections covering:
   1. Introduction
   2. New Planning System
   3. Content of the Local Development Framework
   4. Procedures and Timetable
   5. Resources and Risk

   In addition there are two appendices and a glossary of terms.

4. The draft Scheme is essentially a procedural and programming document and its content is intended to be self explanatory.

Further development of the draft Scheme

5. Section 3 of the draft Scheme sets out a list of documents which the Authority is required to be prepare in the first three years from 1 April 2006. These are:
   - Joint Core Strategy
• Joint Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework
• Proposals Map
• Statement of Community Involvement
• Monitoring Report (annual)

6. In addition to the above documents the draft Scheme identifies a number of other local development documents that could be included, namely:

• Development Control Policies
• Development Plan Documents on planning issues that are specific to the National Park
• Area Action Plans.

7. A number of factors will influence whether or not additional documents are added to the draft Scheme before it is finally submitted to government. These include:

a) Consideration of emerging priorities for action across all areas of the Authority’s responsibilities and discussion on whether or not these should be addressed through spatial planning or other means.

b) The extent to which issues can be adequately addressed in the Core Strategy (or in other Authority documents like the National Park Management Plan).

c) The Authority’s desire to focus on specific issues.

d) The scope for joint working with adjacent authorities, especially in relation to subjects that transcend the National Park boundaries.

e) The amount of time likely to be required to introduce an effective consultation process which meets both the Authority’s aspirations and government requirements for public involvement in the preparation of the Statement of Community involvement.

f) The resources (in terms of staff and finance) required to support separate work programmes on individual documents, including public examination.

8. The members’ working group has discussed some of these issues in outline and more work needs to be done on the potential focus, content and resources required before a recommendation can be made on additional documents that could be added to the Scheme. The list of potential Local Development Documents, as set out in paragraph 3.7 of Annex A to the draft Scheme, is indicative at this stage. It covers:
• Development control policies
• Local needs affordable housing
• Landscape character and village design
• Tranquil areas
• Education and sustainable recreation
• Transport and access
• Landscape character
• Coastal management
• Guidance on agricultural buildings.

9. These, and any other topic areas that are considered to be important by members, will be investigated in more detail during December/January and will be analysed against the criteria listed in paragraph 7 above. They will be included in a further report to the Authority in February.

Next Steps

10. Subject to the views of members, the draft Scheme will be circulated to adjoining authorities for comment and will be discussed with the Government Office of the South East in January 2006. The draft Scheme will be revised in the light of responses and re-presented to the Authority in February. The target is to complete the review of the draft Scheme and to seek its adoption by the Authority in March 2006.

Recommendation:

To approve the current draft Scheme as the basis for consultation with adjacent authorities and with the Government Office of the South East, subject to any amendments proposed and agreed at the Authority’s meeting.