



Ryedale District Council

REPORT TO: Policy & Resources Committee

DATE: 31st July 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Forward Planning & Economic Development Manager, Julian Rudd

SUBJECT: Ryedale Local Development Framework:

WARDS AFFECTED: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Members agreement to waiver standing orders in order to allow consultancy support to be procured using Office of Government Commerce Framework Contracts.

RECOMMENDATION : that Members –

- (1) Approve a waiver of Standing Orders such that the procurement of consultants to support the production of the Ryedale Local Development Framework can be undertaken using Office of Government Commerce Framework Contracts.
- (2) Delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive and Head of Planning, in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, to authorise expenditure.

3.0 REASONS SUPPORTING DECISION

- 3.1 To make best use of the resources available to progress production of the Local Development Framework (LDF)

4.0 BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 Following meetings of this Committee in February and April of this year, Members agreed additional funding to support the production of the Local Development Framework. As well as agreeing additional staffing for the team, additional resources for consultancy support were also agreed.
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- 4.2 It was considered that the most effective way of using consultants, in conjunction with enhanced staff resources would be to commission them to:
- undertake specialist/bespoke tasks, including for example, the preparation of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA); site viability work; Sustainability Appraisal
 - Assist with some of the larger time intensive tasks, such as consultation events and the assimilation of consultation responses
- 4.3 Annex 1 to this report provides a summary of a draft work programme up until the end of next year. Clearly the use of consultants to complete the technical evidence base is an immediate priority. Although most of the large technical studies required for the LDF are in place (with the exception of the SHLAA), there is a need to roll forward and update key pieces of technical work including the Retail Capacity Study, the Employment Land Study and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
- 4.4 In June, the Government announced further formal changes to the planning system in a revised version of PPS12 (the national policy covering the role, content and procedures for Local Development Frameworks) and new Development Plan Regulations. These changes will require an update of the Local Development Scheme. A draft of the LDS together with a detailed LDF work programme and progress update will be reported to the October meeting of this Committee.

5.0 REPORT & OPTION APPRAISAL

- 5.1 Consultancy support can be procured at preferential rates using the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Framework Agreements. These are all fully compliant with European Union procurement legislation and national public service contract rules. All companies within the framework agreement have pre-tendered to be eligible to provide services in this way.
- 5.2 The Council does have the option of commissioning consultants under its standing orders and using their standard rates, but this is considered not to be the best and most cost effective use of the resources available. The preferential rates available through the OGC route will result in cost savings. In addition, procurement using the OGC is undertaken online. It provides a quick and immediate way of seeking invitations to quote or to commission services directly.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The ability to procure services under the OGC Framework Agreements would ensure the more efficient, effective and prudent use of the resources that have been committed to the LDF.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 As outlined in paragraph 5.1 above, the OGC Framework Agreements are fully compliant with the relevant legislation.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 The recommendation is appropriate on the basis of the issues outlined in the report.

Background Papers:

Policy and Resources Committee: 14th February 2008; 17th April 2008

OFFICER CONTACT:

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Annex 1: Summary of LDF Draft Work programme to end of 2009

PRE-CONSULTATION TASKS (On-going until Spring 2009)

- To inform scope and content of a revised Core Strategy including Policy coverage, settlement growth options and infrastructure/section 106 requirements
- To assist in the selection of new land allocations for Housing, employment and retail uses in the Facilitating Development DPD

Technical Work

- Compilation of Project briefs (Underway. To be completed end July 2008)
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (Stage 1 Housing land supply position at April 2008 to be completed at end of July 2008: Stage 2 to be commissioned)
- Employment Land Study Update (To be commissioned)
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update (Environment Agency has been asked to advise on the scope of this)
- Retail Capacity Study Update (Commissioned)
- GIS Positional Accuracy of local plan policy layers and constraints mapping (Underway)
- Initial Site Viability Assessments (To be commissioned once infrastructure requirements are known)
- Infrastructure Requirements and costings/section 106 tariffs (Energy provision, Water supply and sewerage capacity, School Capacity, Highway capacity) (Underway)
- Appropriate Assessment (To be commissioned)

Consultation

- Malton Town Centre Sites Strategy (On Going)
- Service providers (NYCC - Highways, Education, Social Services; Health Authority; Yorkshire Water; Housing Associations)

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- 'In-house' – Service Units; Development control and Members (initial briefings to be completed by September 2008)

CONSULTATION (Consultation document + area based exhibitions – February 2009)

To cover –

- Settlement Hierarchy
- Retail Hierarchy
- Scale and proportion of development
- Broad locations for growth at settlements
- Brownfield Land Strategy
- Policy Coverage/ Choices: Green Infrastructure Hierarchy; Affordable housing targets and thresholds; Generic Development Control policies; Provision for Gypsies and Travellers; Renewable Energy
- Constraint policies (eg VIUA's)
- Initial site- specific consultation (270+ sites)
- Site selection criteria

DRAFT CORE STRATEGY (July/August 2009)

- Consider consultation responses
- Redraft Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal
- Produce Proposals Map
- Consult on Draft Core Strategy

SUBMIT CORE STRATEGY (Nov/Dec 2009)

Policy Context	Impact Assessment	Impact +ve -ve Neutral
Community Plan Themes	The LDF will help to facilitate the delivery of many Community Plan objectives	+
Corporate Objectives/Priorities	The LDF will help to facilitate the delivery of many corporate policies	+
Service Priorities	Forward Planning and Economic Development	+
Financial	Would provide for effective and efficient use of resources.	+
Legal Implications	Compliant with EU procurement law and public service contract rules	+
Procurement Policies	"	+
Asset Management Policies	N/A	
LA21 & Environment Charter	No direct implications	
Community Safety	No direct implications	
Equalities	No direct implications	
E-Government	No direct implications	
Risk Assessment	Low risk in view of the legal implications outlined above	+
Estimated Timescale for achievement	Main LDF documents to be submitted for examination in 2010.	