

Summary of the views of the Development Plans Working Party (meeting of 31st January 2011) on the Draft Local Plan Issues and Options Paper

1. Consultees should be asked about the key issues and their preferred levels of growth for both their local area and then separately for the District as a whole to overcome the very different perceptions of what "Local" means.
2. The branding needs consideration and questioned whether the initial consultation should be called something different, e.g. shaping the future, with the preamble making it clear it is a key step in the development of the Local Plan.
3. Change of wording from 'options' to 'scenarios', with pros and cons set out for each, along with a short explanation as to how each scenario has been picked as a realistic one.
4. Consultation questions need careful consideration and the Working Party want to be involved in their development, with a further meeting scheduled as early as possible after the Executive (assuming the recommendations are approved).
5. It is important that background information is referenced and available.
6. The need to draw attention to the need for a combined approach from authority/agencies to planning and infrastructure service delivery.
7. The wording in the consultation must avoid promises.
8. Working Party fully endorses the consultation process.

This written note is to be forwarded to all members of the Executive.

Officer comments on the points raised above by the Development Plans Working Party

1. Agreed, this would be helpful in interpreting responses, and this amendment has been addressed in the questions posed within the revised draft paper attached.
2. Officers have been working on a new style of document for this consultation in terms of its design and layout. The text has also been subject to a 'plain english' test and the revised draft paper incorporates suggested changes. The paper has been titled 'issues and options' as that is what the consultation is essentially about.
3. Officers have referred to the 'options' as it is consistent with the title, fits with the questions being asked of the public, and is considered to be plain english. The pros and cons of each option, and a short explanation of each option have been strengthened in the revised draft paper.

4. The consultation questions are set out in the draft paper. A further meeting of the Development Plans Working Party will have implications for the timing of the start of the consultation.
5. The background technical report is highlighted in more than one place in the revised draft paper.
6. Agreed, this is essential and officers will be making this point through discussions with such agencies through the consultation process.
7. Agreed, the wording of the paper has sought to make it clear that new development comes with the 'potential' for greater investment in the area, which will be reliant upon the Government's emerging proposals for changes to raising funds from new development.
8. Noted

4th February 2011.