

ITEM

ITEM

Environment Policy Development Group – 12 January 2006

**SOUTH HAMS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY –
CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY**

Report of Forward Planning Manager

Statutory Powers: Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Financial Implications: None.

Purpose

To review the proposed policy within the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy.

Recommendation

That the Group make comments on the policy to the Executive.

Background

1. The Core Strategy will be considered by the Council on 22 December 2005. The Council is expected to endorse the proposed way forward, with delegated authority to the Strategic Director (Community) in consultation with the Leader, Chairman of the Development Planning Steering Group, and a nominated Member from the minority group to make necessary final changes to its content. Therefore the comments of the Group could be incorporated into the document, if supported by the Executive and the nominated Members described above.

The role of a Climate Change Policy in the Local Development Framework

2. A key element of the South Hams LDF is the Core Strategy. Under Government requirements it needs to be one of the first LDF documents to be produced and importantly sets out the vision and strategic context for other LDF documents to follow.
3. The Core Strategy document will contain the key strategic, spatial planning policies for the district. These policies will establish the development pattern and provide an over-arching context for more detailed policies dealing with specific issues. These more detailed policies will be included in the Core Policies LDF document.
4. Subject to it being approved by Council on 22 December 2005, the Core Strategy will be published at the end of January 2006. This will be the submission version and it will progress to its examination stage which is anticipated in the summer next year. The Core Policies document is currently being drafted in detail and is due to be published in Preferred Options Stage in May 2006.

5. The Core Strategy document contains a strategic policy on the issue of climate change. In summary, this policy requires development to reflect the need to plan for climate change. The issues of reduction of energy use, sustainable transport, renewable energy and the overall need to minimise the impact of climate change are referred to. These issues will be addressed more fully and with more detailed policy guidance in the Core Policies document. The Council also intends to produce a Supplementary Planning Document on Sustainable Development and this will include a climate sensitive development checklist.
6. The Core Strategy extract relating to the Climate Change Policy is attached as Appendix 1.

Strategic risk management

7. The following risks have been identified:-

RISK	MITIGATION
Increasing concern about the threats from climate change, and not developing appropriate policies to manage future development	Include a strategic policy in the Core Strategy to enable more detailed policies to be developed in the subsequent LDF documents.

Conclusion

Under the new planning system, the Core Strategy must be a strategic document with strategic policies. Officers believe the proposed policy will provide a basis for the subsequent development of more detailed policies.

John Oakes
Forward Planning Manager

Environment Policy Development Group
12 January 2005

Background Documents

South Hams Local Development Framework