

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE – 20th May 2009

Agenda Item	13
Report No	PED 43/09

Highland Wide Local Development Plan Progress Report

Report by Director of Planning and Development

SUMMARY

This report outlines the progress made to date on the production of the Highland Wide Local Development Plan and how it will be progressed to the Main Issues Report. Members are asked to note progress and agree that a Development Plan workshop be held in late June 2009.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Members will be aware that the Planning and Development Service are working in partnership with a number of agencies to produce a new Local Development Plan which will look at the strategic issues facing Highland over the next 20 years. This report outlines progress on the production of the new local development plan to date and the work which will be carried out over the coming months.

2.0 Progress to date

2.1 Progress has been made in a range of different aspects of the plan, with the most significant being the production of the 2009 Development Plan Scheme which was reported to this committee in March. This laid out the time scales for production of the Highland Wide Local Development Plan (HWLDP) and how we aim to get members of the public involved in the production of the plan. This has already been sent to over 400 members of the public and organisations, and it is currently being distributed to all Community Councils, Residents Associations and Grazing Committees.

2.2 A detailed project plan has now been prepared, and a summary of the key dates is shown in the appendix to this report. Also attached is a copy of the draft Consultation Plan which shows how consultation on the Main Issues Report between the 14th August and 25th September 2009 will be carried out.

2.3 The Development Plans team have been attending regular workshops with key agencies including Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, Transport Scotland and Scottish Water. These meetings have been important sounding boards on key policy issues affecting the area. Other relevant discussions have included a crofting/planning workshop with the Crofters Commission. Further discussion with Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Homes for Scotland, the Scottish Rural business and Property Association and the Forestry Commission will be undertaken over the next few weeks.

- 2.4 In addition to strengthening working relationships with external partners, work is also underway with other Council Services. In particular, joint working with Housing and Property and Transport, Environment and Community Services on production of both the Local Housing Strategy and Local Transport Strategy respectively will ensure a joined-up approach to consultation and strategy.
- 2.5 It was reported to PED Committee on 18 March 2009 that we would be bringing the Main Issues Report to this Committee. Given that if this was done the main issues report would not have been in its full and final state the service believed it would be more appropriate to delay the Main Issues Report until August. At that time the service will be able to present a full and final version of the Main Issues Report and then lead straight into a period of public consultation. The timescale for delivering a Proposed Plan is still applicable, however, the date of the public consultation has now been altered to avoid school/summer holidays. The date for the public consultation will be from 14 August to 25 September 2009 as published in the final version of the Development Plan Scheme.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 The Main Issues Report is currently being prepared. It is intended that this will be drafted for a Members' workshop in late June to discuss the spatial strategy and vision. It will then be updated following the workshop and then brought to this committee in August before going out for public comment for a six week period.
- 3.2 The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the HWLDP is being carried out in a more streamlined manner using partnership working. A workshop is to take place in early June involving each of the three consultation authorities for strategic environmental assessment to ensure that environmental issues are being addressed early in the production of the plan. Similar work is being undertaken in respect of the Equalities Impact Assessment.
- 3.3 Early and effective community engagement is an important part of the production of the HWLDP and this has already begun with presentations to a number of Community Councils and other bodies. Leading up to and throughout the consultation period the Service will be making presentations and seeking comment at ward forums as well as holding information days at a number of locations throughout Highland. All consultation will be undertaken jointly with Housing and Property and Transport, Environment and Community Services.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report which cannot be met within the existing budget.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The production of the Highland Wide Local Development Plan is continuing to bring together a number of outside agencies and strengthen the working relationship between a number of services within the Council. The ambitious timescale for production of the HWLDP is currently being achieved and it is the intention that a report on the Main Issues Report will be brought to this committee in August before taking the Main Issues Report out for Public Consultation.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) Note the progress on the production of the Highland Wide Local Development Plan;
- (ii) Agree to a members workshop being held in June 2009 to discuss the draft Main Issues Report; and
- (iii) Agree that the Main Issues Report will be brought before this committee in August 2009 before going out for public consultation

Signature:

Designation: Director of Planning and Development

Date: 8 May 2009

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Appendix 1 - Time Scales for Production of the Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Stage	Highland Wide Development Plan	Strategic Assessment	Environmental	Time Scale	Other Work
1	Publication of the updated Development Plan Scheme	Prepare a Scoping Report and send to the Consultation Authorities		March 2009	Continue toward adoption of the West Highlands and Islands Local Plan and Sutherland Local Plan. Continue work on Supplementary Guidance.
2	Prepare and publish the Main Issues Report and Monitoring Statement. Consult the community for a total period of 6 weeks	Publish a draft Environmental Report and consult the community and the Consultation Authorities on this for a total of 6 weeks.		August 2009	Continue toward adoption of the West Highlands and Islands Local Plan and Sutherland Local Plan. Continue work on Supplementary Guidance.
3	Publish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Plan • Landownership Schedule • Proposed Action Plan Neighbour Notification Consult the community for 6 weeks.	Publish revised Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment, if required.		November 2009	Continue work on Supplementary Guidance.
4	Prepare and consult on changes we make to the proposed plan. Assess feedback from the consultation and the results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).	Assess what major effects the proposed changes are likely to have on the environment.		March 2010	Start work on the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan and continue work on Supplementary Guidance.
5.	Examination of the Plan			2010	
6.	Publish post-examination changes and modified proposed plan	Publish and send to ministers Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment including any modifications		2010	
7.	Put plan into place and monitor our progress	Publish Post-Adoption Statement and submit to SEA Gateway		2010	

		13/04/2009	20/04/2009	27/04/2009	04/05/2009	11/05/2009	18/05/2009	25/05/2009	01/06/2009	08/06/2009	15/06/2009	22/06/2009	29/06/2009	06/07/2009	13/07/2009	20/07/2009	27/07/2009	03/08/2009	10/08/2009	17/08/2009	24/08/2009	31/08/2009	07/09/2009	14/09/2009	21/09/2009	28/09/2009	05/10/2009	12/10/2009		
Work	Prepare Consultation Material			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■															
	Print Consultation Material															■	■	■												
	Re-Design Website					■	■	■																						
	Preparation of e-presentations														■	■	■													
	Discuss and prepare Highland wide Schools Comp									■	■	■	■																	
	e-newsletter																		■	■								■		
	preparation for Members workshop																													
	Community Partnership Television Preparation				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Media																														
	Vue Advert				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■																	
	Press Release																			■			■		■					
	Community Partnership television																		■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
	Press Adverts																			■										
																				<No Events>										
																				<----MIR Consultation Period---->										

