

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE 6
APRIL 2010**

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME

BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report asks Committee to approve the proposed timescale for the next Review of the Moray Local Development Plan.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (2) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the Review and Preparation of Strategic and Local Plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to adhere to the timetable as approved in March 2009, namely

- **Main Issues Report January 2011**
- **Proposed Plan January 2012**
- **Adopt New Plan March 2013**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The new planning system introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006 requires Planning Authorities to move towards a new system for structure/local plans. For Moray this will mean that in future there will be no Structure Plan, and that the next Local Plan will be replaced by a Local Development Plan, which will incorporate the strategic elements previously contained in the Structure Plan.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government requires Planning Authorities to annually prepare a Development Plan Scheme, which sets out a timetable for this review including proposals for consultation and engagement.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 17 March 2009, (Paragraph 4 refers) this Committee approved a Development Plan Scheme, which contained the following timescale.

Dec 2008 – Dec 2010: Monitor Local Plan performance
 Data Collection
 Stakeholder/key agency consultations
 Preparation of main issues report

Jan 2011 – Dec 2011: Publish Main Issues report
 Consultation/Engagement
 Analyse responses

	Report to Committee Prepare Proposed Plan
Jan 2012 – July 2012:	Publish Proposed Plan Consultation/Engagement Analyse Responses Report to Committee
July 2012 – March 2013:	Preparation for Examination Examination Examination Results Modifications Adopt Plan

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is not proposed to alter this timetable, which will see the Moray Local Plan 2008 replaced within 5 years of its adoption. This would comply with Scottish Government targets for keeping plans up to date.
- 4.2 It is similarly intended to make no changes to the public engagement proposals, as previously approved in March 2009,
- 4.3 For reference, a copy of the 2009 Development Plan Scheme has been placed in the Members Library.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The Local Development Plan will contribute to many of the Single Outcome Agreement Outcomes, in particular Outcome 10 – "We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need". The preparation of the Local Development Plan is a key aspect of the Development Plans Services Improvement Plan.

- (b) Policy and Legal

The preparation of a Local Development Plan is a statutory requirement for local authorities.

- (c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The availability of staff resources will determine whether this timescale can be adhered to. Currently long-term sick leave and maternity leave have reduced the staff levels available. Compliance with elements of the 2006 Act have also had an effect (e.g. Local Review Body; Major Applications; Pre Application Consultations)

No financial provision has been made for this process, and any costs will require to be absorbed within the overall Development Services budget. For the previous Local Plan input from several specialist consultants was required (Landscape; Strategic Environmental Assessment). The Public/Inquiry/Examination will involve reporter's fees.

(d) Consultations

Aileen Scott (Principal Solicitor Commercial and Conveyancing) and Lorraine Paisey (Principal Accountant) have been consulted and their views incorporated into the report.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Council is required annually to consider and update its Development Plan Scheme.**
- 6.2 It is not proposed to change the timetable agreed in March 2009. Consultation and engagement proposals are similarly unchanged.**
- 6.3 The availability of staff resources will affect the ability to adhere to this timetable.**
- 6.4 There is no financial provision for this process, yet some specialist services are likely to be required. Costs will require to be absorbed within the overall Development Services budget.**

Author of Report: Mark Cross

Background Papers: Report to Planning and Regulatory Services Committee 17
March 2009

Ref: