

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING, TOURISM AND LEISURE SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE – 14 APRIL 2005

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISLAND PLAN (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK)

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING POLICY

REASON FOR SELECT COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

Following earlier consultation with the Select Committee, Members have expressed an interest in the development of the Local Development Framework, and indicated that along with other stakeholders the need to become involved in and consulted upon the LDF. We are presenting a programme with member's involvement, for the development of the LDF over the next 12 – 18 months.

ACTION REQUIRED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE

- i. To agree the need to be engaged in the **Island Plan** (LDF) process, and identify an **Island Plan** (LDF) Champion to lead Member involvement.
- ii. To agree to scrutinise the work of the **Island Plan** Task Group.
- iii. To make recommendations on the work of the **Island Plan** Task Group to the Executive Committee.
- iv. To ensure future Committee Dates are timetabled so that the milestones of the Core Strategy Project Plan can be met.
- v. To receive training on the **Island Plan** (LDF) as part of the post-election induction process.

BACKGROUND

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places a responsibility on local authorities to produce a local development framework that will replace the existing Unitary Development Plan. The Local Development Framework will be a different, more flexible approach to planning policy, made up of a folder of documents or "**Island Plan**", which can be produced and amended within much shorter timescales than current plans can.

The Council has set itself a challenging timetable of having the new policy framework adopted by the end of 2007, and we are in a good position to undertake this work at present, with the Unitary Development Plan being relatively current and the Community Strategy being reviewed. This will give us the opportunity to maximise the opportunity for our communities and to shape the future of the Island.

There are three key elements to the new system:

1. It is a streamlined process, with agreed timescales. The Core Strategy project plan is not a moving feast; it is a fixed timetable upon which the Council's plan making performance will be measured.

2. It needs to connect with the community and enable wider ownership of the future of the Island. To this end, we have produced a statement, setting out how we intend to consult with and involve local communities and stakeholders in the process.
3. Member engagement. Whilst it is key to get community involvement in the process, **Island Plan** will be a Council document.

On 14/07/2004, Executive agreed that the LSP, and in particular Theme Group 7, should be the group to take forward work on the **Island Plan**. Given this recommendation, the following process is suggested as a way of progressing the **Island Plan**.

Task/Work Group – to include LSP Theme Group 7 members, Members of Select Committee, Portfolio Holder/s and Key officers. This group will work closely with officers and consultants on progressing the Core Strategy before it is submitted to Select Committee at the key stages identified in the project plan.

Scrutiny Process – to ratify the work undertaken by the task/working group and recommend to Executive/Portfolio holder.

Decision Making – Executive/Portfolio Holder

Core Strategy milestones that have to be met are:

- a. Preferred options and initial sustainability appraisal report 02/01/06 – 01/02/06.
- b. Formal consultation on preferred options – 13/02/06 – 23/03/06
- c. Submission of document – 22/05/06 – 29/05/06.
- d. Examination – 01/01/07 – 31/01/07
- e. Adoption – 24/08/07 – 31/08/07

Prior to milestones b-e there will need to be an Executive Decision on consultation drafts, drafts for submission, formal statement on responses and a decision on the Inspectors binding report respectively.

RELEVANT PLANS, POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The **Island Plan** will be one of the main vehicles through which the aims and objectives of the Community Strategy can be delivered.

Work on the **Island Plan** will be key in delivering all six of the Council's corporate objectives

BVPI 200 – Plan Making
National PSA Target 6

PSA Target 6 is linked to measuring performance based upon whether authorities meet the milestones set out in their Local Development Schemes. Future Planning Delivery Grant will be calculated on the basis of delivering the **Island Plan** within the timescale agreed with Government Office and the Planning Inspectorate.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

We have had discussions with Government Office with regard to the process for progressing the **Island Plan** (LDF). Community Involvement in the process is a statutory requirement, and the Council has a statement of community involvement, shortly to be formally submitted for government approval, which clearly sets out how individuals, groups, agencies, and communities will be invited to become involved in the process.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Although it is difficult to identify precise costs at this stage given that local authorities have no experience of preparing the new style of development plans, it is likely to be in the order of £450.000.

The cost of producing the plan covers a wide range of specialist tasks, consultation with key stakeholders and local residents, the arrangements for public inquiry and associated legal representation, and eventual printing. The Planning Delivery Grant (2004/05) will cover these costs. Indeed it is part of the Government's intention that planning delivery grant is used to implement the new Act and deliver a Local Development Framework.

It is not envisaged that the use of the Local Strategic Partnership Theme Group to oversee the preparation of the Plan will in itself have any significant financial implications.

The adoption of the Local Development Framework is a requirement of the Planning Bill 2004, S13 Local Government Act and associated regulations provide that the development plan cannot be the sole responsibility of the Executive.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

Appendix 1 – Core Strategy Project Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

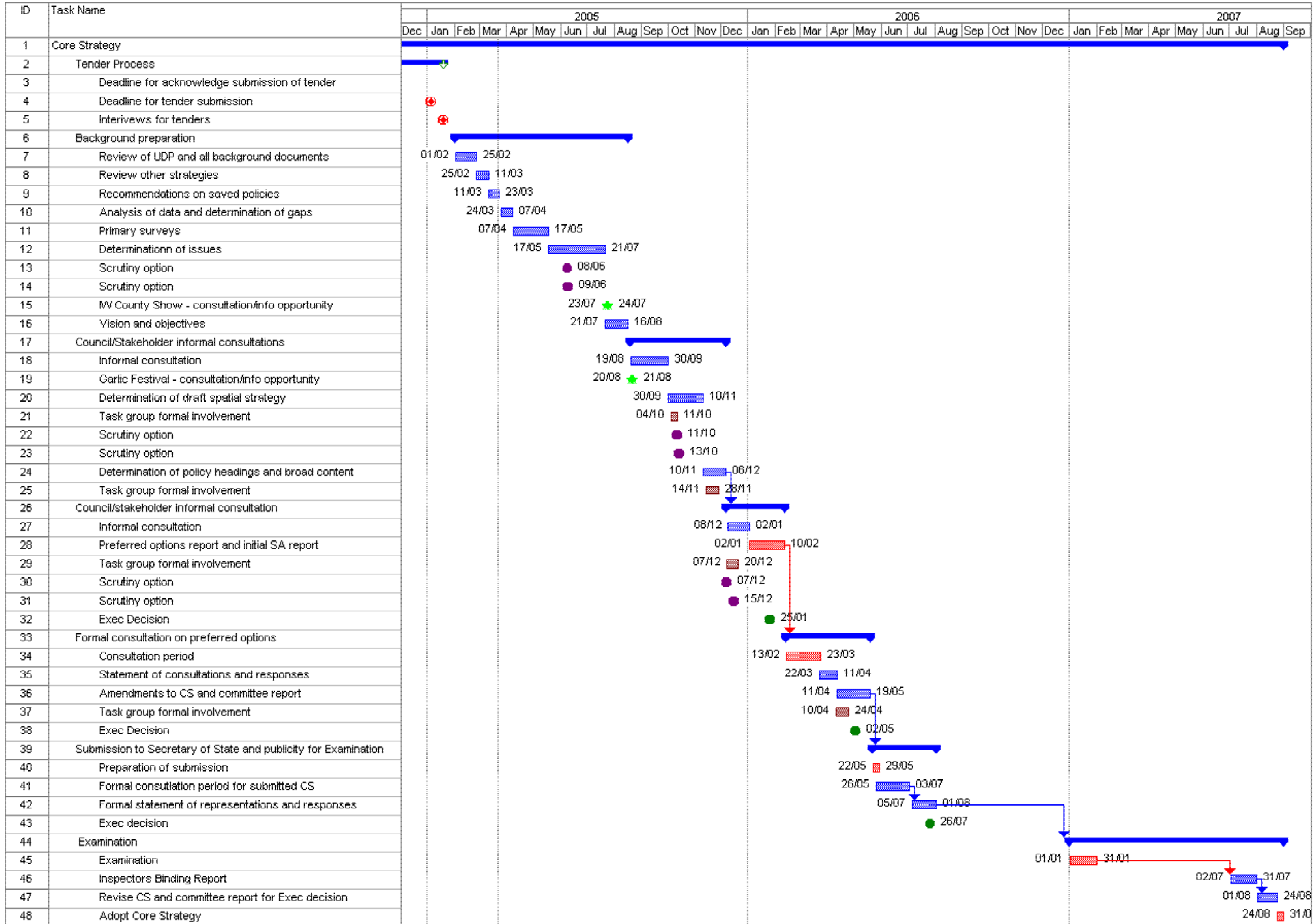
IW Council Local Development Scheme for the *Island Plan* (March 2005)

IW Council Consultation Draft Statement of Community Involvement (Feb 2005)

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Core Strategy Project Plan



APPENDIX 1