

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	10th April 2013	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2488
TITLE:	Placemaking Plan – Update Report	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: none		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Placemaking Plan is a necessary complement to the Core Strategy in order to assist bringing forward the brownfield sites for development in the most effective way, to provide the necessary detail on the planning requirements for the locations identified for development in the Core Strategy and to update other Local Plan policies. For development sites, the Placemaking Plan will provide greater detail on type and mix of uses and the quantum of development as well as setting out design requirements and the safeguards necessary to ensure the harm to the environment is minimised and that development is well integrated and makes a positive contribution to local communities. In the Somer Valley and the rural areas where specific sites are not identified, the Placemaking Plan will provide a framework to enable the District Council to work with local communities to assist with local planning and to bring forward the appropriate sites for development.
- 1.2 The process of engaging with communities and stakeholders has already begun and this will be formalised through the publication of the launch document in May 2013. The launch Document will set out the purpose, scope, and timetable for the Placemaking Plan. It will provide a framework for Parish and Town Councils and other local communities to work in partnership with the District Council in the development of planning policies and proposals affecting them. Delivery and implementation will be a key theme of the Placemaking Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Cabinet notes that the preparation of the Placemaking Plan will be formally launched in May 2013 with the publication of the Launch Document.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Placemaking Plan will be prepared within the financial resources of the Local Development Framework budget and the staff resources of the Planning Policy Team. Its preparation and implementation relies on cross service working and working in partnership with local communities and stakeholders.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- *Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone*
- *Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live*
- *Building a stronger economy*

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Placemaking Plan complements the Council's Core Strategy by providing the necessary detail on sites and policies. Community engagement will be central in the preparation of the Plan. It will also have a strong focus on implementation and the delivery of development needed to meet corporate and community aspirations. The Plan will:

- facilitate the development of key development sites; Preparation of the Placemaking Plan is one of the most effective tools that the Council has to facilitate the delivery of development needed to meet corporate objectives; it provides clarity and a smoother path through the planning system,
- provide a framework for town and parish councils to undertake local planning and for the detailed work on the urban extensions proposed in the Core Strategy to be undertaken in partnership with local communities.
- Identify the important assets to be protected, how could they be enhanced, and a review of local designations,
- update generic planning policies in the Local Plan to ensure they remain up-to-date which is particularly important in light of the NPPF presumption in favour of development,
- address how infrastructure requirements will be met and how other obstacles to the delivery of development sites will be overcome. It will update the B&NES Infrastructure Delivery Plan and be prepared to be aligned with the production of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

- 5.2 The first stage in the production of the Placemaking Plan is the Launch Document which is scheduled for release in May following consideration by Cabinet. It will set out the detailed scope and programme of the Placemaking Plan. This will provide local communities with the clarity that they need to progress community planning.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 An EqIA has not been completed for the following reasons:

- as this is an update report and no policy direction is being proposed at this stage. The Placemaking Plan will be prepared in the context of the parent document, the Core Strategy, for which an EqIA has been completed.

8 RATIONALE

- 8.1 The Placemaking Plan Launch Document will help to provide clarity on the preparation of the Placemaking Plan for local communities and those with an interest in the development process and will facilitate effective community engagement.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The Council has significant discretion over this stage of plan preparation before the first formal stage which is the publication of a draft plan for consultation. This informal engagement stage is the opportunity to assess the evidence, clarify the key issues of relevance, and consider options. Publication of a launch Document, whilst not a requirement of the plan preparation regulations, is a helpful way to publicize the start of the process and ensure all those who need to be involved are have sufficient information to properly engage in the process

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 *Ward Councillor; Cabinet members; Parish Council; Town Council; Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel; Other B&NES Services; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer*
- 10.2 The Launch Document will also set out the broad programme for community engagement. It is important that issues are defined and options are assessed in a collaborative way with local communities and partners.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

- 11.1 *Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Young People; Other Legal Considerations*

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

- 12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	<p><i>David Trigwell (Divisional Director for Planning & Transport Development) 01225 394125</i></p> <p><i>Simon de Beer (Panning Policy & Environment Manager) 01225 477616</i></p>
Sponsoring Cabinet Member	<i>Councillor Tim Ball</i>
Background papers	<i>B&NES Core Strategy</i>
<p>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</p>	