

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

Date of Meeting: 25 November 2002

Public

Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan: No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: BUDGET BID TO COVER OUR COST OF LOCAL PLAN PRODUCTION

Report of: Director of Environment & Development

Report reference: EN.130/02

Summary:

This report outlines the need for an earmarked reserve fund of £45,000 to cover the cost of the Local Plan Review.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that a reserve fund of £45,000 be established to cover the cost of the Local Plan Review to be operated in the manner detailed in paragraph 4.2.

Mike Battersby

Director of Environment & Development

Contact Officer: Alan Eales

Ext: 7170

Report to the Executive EN.130 /02

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1.1 The Carlisle District Local Plan, adopted by the Council on the 16 September 1997, provides guidance for development in Carlisle to 2006. Local Plans are intended to cover periods of up to 10 years, and should be reviewed every 5 years.

1.2 As Members will be aware the Review and Roll Forward of the Local Plan is in progress and issue papers will be published in the New Year. It is intended that the plan will be ready for the first deposit stage at the end of 2003.

1.3 The production of the District Local Plan is a statutory requirement for the City Council to fulfil. In previous years there has been a budget within the Planning Division Budget for Local Plan Production. This has been reduced over the years as savings have been required and the position is now that there is a budget of approximately £4,000 available for the production of the Local Plan. This is insufficient to meet the work required.

1.4 The process requires the production of issue papers, the first and second deposit stages, the Local Plan Inquiry and the adoption of the final plan and is likely to take 3 years.

1.5 Therefore, this reserve fund of £45,000 is to cover:

- production costs including coloured proposals maps and documents;
- elements of research;
- publicity and consultation, including news letters and exhibitions;
- Local Plan Inquiry; and
- the cost of the final adopted plan.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation has been limited to that detailed below.

Report to the Executive EN.130 /02

3. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

3.1 There are no implications for staff and resources other than if no reserve fund is available it will not be possible to produce of the Local Plan.

4. CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS

1. The costs associated with producing the Local Plan vary from year to year depending on the work to be carried out in a particular year and also the level of objections to the Local Inquiry.
2. As the costs can not be accurately pre-determined in advance, it is suggested that an earmarked reserve fund be established in the sum

of £45,000 to be drawn on as required by reference to the Executive. The fund would be required to be replenished at regular intervals and this could be considered at each financial year end, by allocating any Planning services underspends to the fund.

3. This will need to be considered as part of the current budget process.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

1. The City Secretary and Solicitor has been consulted and supports the establishment of the reserve fund.

6. CORPORATE COMMENTS

6.1 There are no corporate comments.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

7.1 If the reserve fund is not made available the City Council will be in a difficult position in that it will not be possible to prepare the Local Plan, which is a Statutory Requirement.

8. EQUALITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no equality issues.

Report to the Executive EN.130 /02

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The production of the Local Plan provides the Planning Policy to guide development in Carlisle in a sustainable manner to 2011 and is, therefore, important to safeguard the Environment.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

1. The review of the Local Plan will provide Planning Policies on designing out crime.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 It is recommended that a reserve fund of £45,000 be established to cover the cost of the Local Plan Review to be operated in the manner detailed in paragraph 4.2.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 It is a Statutory Requirement for the Local Planning Authority to have an up to date Local Plan and it is necessary to review the

existing District Local Plan and roll it forward to 2011. The reserve fund is required to cover the cost of production, research and the Local Plan Inquiry.

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