

**Meeting: Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee**  
**Date: 30 November 2004**  
**Subject: Local Development Frameworks**  
**Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004**  
**Responsible Officer: Executive Director Urban Living**  
**Contact Officer: Anna Robinson**  
**Portfolio Holder: Planning, Development and Housing**  
**Key Decision: No**  
**Status: Part 1**

### **Recommendations**

1. The Committee is asked to scrutinise the information on Local Development Frameworks in the attached reports.
2. The Committee is asked to note the information below on The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and to consider whether it wishes to receive further information at a later date.

### **Local Development Frameworks**

3. The attached Cabinet reports of July 2004 and October 2004 set out the key elements of Local Development Frameworks (LDF) and the resourcing requirements to enable the LDF team to deliver a fully compliant and high standard LDF to Government Office by the deadline of March 2007.
4. The Government's intention is that LDF's will provide a simplified and more flexible framework for planning, however, as the attached reports show there is an extensive body of work required to complete all elements of the LDF, within a very tight timescale
5. The first element of the LDF that should be submitted to Government Office for approval in January 2005 is the Local Development Scheme which is essentially a project plan. A draft LDS is currently in preparation and will be considered by the Strategic Planning Advisory Panel in December

## **The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004**

6. The stated objectives of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act are to shorten the time taken to examine development proposals and to simplify the planning system. The Act aims to do this by:

- significantly reducing the volume of national planning guidance;
- replacing Regional Planning Guidance with statutory Regional Spatial Strategies which will be drawn up by a far wider group of agencies;
- abolishing county structure plans and replacing them, where appropriate, with a range of sub-regional strategies;
- the introduction of a statutory duty on Regional Planning Bodies to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
- replacing local plans and unitary development plans with Local Development Frameworks which set out basic criteria for acceptable development.
- Including detailed action plans and master plans covering areas where major regeneration schemes were being considered;
- setting up Business Planning Zones where simplified planning procedures would apply;
- "simplifying" planning gain negotiations

The Act received Royal Assent in October 2004 and its implications and applications in Harrow will be evaluated over the coming months.

### **Attachments**

1. Cabinet report of 29 July 2004 'Developing and Resourcing the Local Development Framework in Harrow'
2. Related minutes of Cabinet of 29 July 2004
3. Cabinet Report of 14 October 2004 ' Local Development Frameworks
4. Related Minutes of Cabinet of 14 October 2004

.