Local Development Scheme (LDS)

September 2013
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APPENDICES

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This LDS sets out a 3 year programme for the preparation of the Local Plan. Progress on the preparation of each document will be monitored and is reported in the Council’s Annual Monitoring Report.

1.2 The current Local Development Scheme was prepared in June 2012. Progress on preparing the Local Plan since has seen consultation on the preferred options of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies followed by the pre-submission draft published in May 2013.

The Development Plan System

1.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act came into effect on 28 September 2004. The Act replaced the previous Local Plan system. The aims of the Act are:

- To make the development plan system more flexible in response to changing needs and circumstances.

- To significantly increase the opportunities for communities to become involved in the process of policy making, especially early in the process.

- To ensure that development plans are inclusive and more broadly in line with, and supportive of, other plans and strategies, most notably, the relevant Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The Localism Act 2012 abolished the Regional Spatial Strategy, and also introduced powers for Parish and Town Council’s to produce neighbourhood plans, which if adopted will form part of the statutory Development Plan

1.4 The planning system remains a ‘Plan Led’ system. The Local Plan is the principle document in the Development Plan although it has to be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework. At present, the Statutory Development Plan is made up of the saved policies in the Allerdale Local Plan (1999) and first alteration (2006). These policy documents have statutory force and provide a framework for all decisions on planning applications, according to the degree of consistency to the National Planning Policy Framework. An outline of the hierarchy is given below.
1.5 **National Planning Policy Framework** this was published in March 2012 and replaced Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance. The Framework is a material consideration which must be taken into account, where relevant, in decisions on planning applications. The Local Plan must be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework.

**The Local Plan**

1.9 The Local Plan will comprise the following:

- Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document
- Site Allocations document
- Proposals Map

Other documents that could be brought forward to support the delivery of the Local Plan are:

- Area Action Plans.

(ii) Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are not part of the Development Plan but provide additional guidance and have to be directly related to a policy in a Local Plan. Under the Planning Act 2008 SPDs no longer need to be included in the LDS.

(iii) Other supporting documents:

- This Local Development Scheme (LDS);
- Statement of Community Involvement;
- Annual Monitoring Report;

Which are obligatory.

All documents that make up the Local Plan, except for Supplementary Planning Documents, must be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and, potentially, an Assessment under the European Habitats Regulations, to assess each document’s social, economic, and environmental effects. The Statement of Community Involvement explains how local communities and stakeholders can become involved
in the preparation of the Local Plan and sets the Council’s standards for achieving this.
2.0 THE PURPOSE AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

2.1 The LDS has three main purposes:

- To inform the public of the documents that will make up the new planning policy framework and the timescales within which they can expect their preparation;
- To establish and reflect Council priorities and to enable work programmes to be set for preparation of the documents; and
- To set up a timetable for the review of the documents once they have been adopted.

2.2 The Act states that an LDS must:

- Provide a brief description of the proposed Local Development Documents, identifying each Local Development Document to be produced, its status, role and content, geographical coverage and position in the chain of conformity.
- Explain how the Local Plan will be structured, particularly how different Local Development Documents interrelate. This should include a brief description of how sustainability appraisal will relate to various stages of document preparation.
- Provide details of any documents to be prepared on a joint basis with other local planning authorities.
- Include reference to which policies of old Local Plans have been “Saved” under the transitional arrangements of the 2004 Act.
- Include profiles of each Local Development Document which must show how the adopted proposals map will be reviewed in line with development plan document preparation.
- Summarise how the evidence base will be managed, specifying the main background technical studies.
- Explain how monitoring and review will occur.

Saved Policies and Plans

2.3 The 2004 Act provides for existing Local Plans to be “saved” for a period of 3 years from September 2004 or from the date of adoption of the plan (or its alteration) if they have reached a late stage of preparation. Accordingly, policies in the Allerdale Local Plan were “saved” by the Secretary of State in September 2007, and the Local Plan First Alteration was “saved” in June 2009, these are listed on the Allerdale website.
Development Plan

2.4 The development plan for Allerdale Borough Council currently comprises of:

- **The Allerdale Local Plan** was adopted on the 15\textsuperscript{th} November 1999 and has been subject to a partial review. The Allerdale Local Plan First Alteration was adopted on 19 June 2006. Under the 2004 Act therefore, the unaltered parts of the Local Plan would have expired in September 2007 whilst the First Alteration will be saved until June 2009. As already stated above some Local Plan Policies were “saved” in September 2007 and the First Alteration was saved in June 2009. Under paragraph 215 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) the weight to be given to the saved Local Plan policies will accord to the degree of consistency with the NPPF.

Other Supporting Documents

2.5 The Council has adopted a number of SPGs/SPDs. A full list is below with a note as to the current and proposed status of the document.

- Derwent Forest Development Guide SPG (2004); still valid, but increasingly out of date.
- Cumbria Wind Energy SPD (July 2007); still relevant.
- Cockermouth Conservation and Design Guide SPD (January 2008); new guidance.

Some of the above are linked to Saved Local Plan policies others are linked to new policies in the updated Local Plan.
3.0 NEW LOCAL PLAN

3.1 The following documents will be produced over the next three years:

- The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD;
- Site Specific Allocations DPD;
- Proposals Map; (the Proposals Map evolves with each DPD produced. It will be replaced or updated as DPD’s are adopted);

The Council also hope to adopt the following SPDs

- Micro renewals SPD;
- Design SPD
- Affordable Housing SPD
- Conservation Area Management SPD
- Planning Obligations/CIL SPD

3.2 Appendix 1 sets out a full schedule of all proposed new Local Development Documents to be prepared by the Council, together with their status, role and content, geographical coverage, and the main milestones to adoption. This schedule should be read in conjunction with the individual Local Development Document Profiles at Appendix 2, which provide further information.

3.3 At Appendix 3 is a Gantt chart providing an overview of the timetable and project management for preparing the new LDDs.

3.4 Each new LDD will include a statement outlining to what extent it replaces ‘saved’ policies. A summary of the remaining ‘saved policies’ will be provided in each Annual Monitoring Report.

3.5 Section 39 of the 2004 Act requires LDDs to be prepared with a view to contributing to sustainable development. Under Section 39 (2) Sustainability Appraisal is mandatory for new and revised DPDs, and any strategies and plans likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Each document prepared undergoes Sustainability Appraisal prior to initial public consultation and throughout the preparation process: it is an ongoing, iterative process. Sustainability Appraisals may
be amended, if appropriate, in response to consultation and as the preparation of the relevant LDD progresses, before submission to the Secretary of State.

3.6 In addition, the European Union’s Habitat Regulations require that plans and proposals which might significantly affect natural habitats designated as Special Protection Areas (SPA) or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) by the EU, should be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in conjunction with Sustainability Assessment. This is also referred to as an “Appropriate Assessment” (AA). Guidance on HRAs suggests that evidence gathering for the assessment should be done at the same time that the scope of the Sustainability Assessment is developed. Allerdale has several extensive SPAs and SACs and it is difficult to anticipate, for the purposes of this LDS, whether a particular document will need a HRA. In preparing this LDS and the timescales involved in the preparation of documents, we have tried to allow for the time to prepare a HRA if needed. However, such assessments can be time consuming, depending on the context, and where a document proves to need a HRA this could affect the timing of the milestones shown and cause unforeseen delays.

Collecting the Evidence Base and Background Studies

3.7 In preparing for the Local Plan, the Council has undertaken a number of background studies. The studies carried out to date which remain relevant are listed below, together with other existing strategies and plans which form part of the evidence base for production of the Local Plan. The need for further studies or reviews of the existing studies will be kept under review as work on the Local Plan progresses.

- West Cumbria Retail Review 2009: A small update has been completed to include the latest population scenarios.
- Allerdale Strategic Housing Markets Assessment published April 2011.
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment –March 2013
- Allerdale Housing Viability Study; completed July 2010 with an update completed in November 2011
- National Land Use Database; assesses all the “brownfield” land in the Borough; is updated annually.
- Allerdale Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2008; completed to meet the requirements of PPS 17.
• West Cumbria Employment Sites Review 2009; completed jointly with Copeland
  B C. update completed February 2012.
• Renewable Energy Capacity Study; completed July 2011

In addition to these, the following policy documents, prepared by others or in
partnership are important contributions to the evidence base;
• “Future Generation”, the Sustainable Communities Strategy for West Cumbria;
• Sub regional spatial strategy
• The West Cumbria Economic Blueprint;
• Solway Coast AONB Management Plan;
• Cumbria Local Transport Plan; prepared by Cumbria County Council;
• Parish Plans : Various

3.8 The Council has adopted a Statement of Community Involvement, which was updated
and adopted in March 2010. The Council’s main current priority is the preparation of
the Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management policies. An Issues and
Options document was published in September 2006, followed by Vision and
Strategic Objectives consultation in August 2009 and a discussion paper on levels of
growth and spatial options in December 2009. All were subject to Sustainability
Appraisal. The priority given to the Local Plan means that few resources can be
spared for further SPD work for the next 2 years.

Scope for Joint Working with Other Local Planning Authorities

3.9 The County has taken the lead in preparing County-wide policy documents (eg. Wind
Energy SPD). Continuing liaison with the County Council will be necessary to ensure
that successful co-ordination occurs. At present Allerdale is represented on the
following County-wide working groups:

• Cumbria Development Plan Officers Group (DPOG)
• Cumbria Development Control Officers Group (DMOG)
• Cumbria Monitoring Officers Working Group (CMOG).
Allerdale is also represented on the Cumbria Planning Group, a Member group with officer support which discusses and coordinates planning policy at a strategic level.

3.10 Joint working initiatives with neighbouring authorities, particularly Copeland Borough Council, are a growing aspect of our workload. At present, joint working is concerned mainly with the preparation of the Evidence Base for the Local Plan; the following studies have been completed on a West Cumbria basis;

- West Cumbria Retail Study 2009;
- West Cumbria Employment Sites Review 2009;
- The Spatial Implications of Britain’s Energy Coast West Cumbria (Dec 2011)
- Population and growth projections (2011)

3.11 The Spatial Implications of Britain’s Energy Coast is a joint study commissioned to explore and define what is required spatially to deliver Britain’s Energy Coast. The outcome from this study is to ensure the evidence base for both Allerdale and Copeland’s Local Plan’s are robust and takes account of the emerging nuclear and other energy related projects. In particular recent updates on the existing employment, housing and infrastructure studies have now been completed.

3.12 Under the ‘Duty to Co-operate’ introduced in the Localism Act the need to work together with adjoining Local Authorities and key partners, particularly in respect to infrastructure delivery, will be a central part of developing the Local Plan. Local Authorities in Cumbria have a good track record of working together, especially on evidence base studies.

**Future Priorities**

3.13 The Borough Council has given careful consideration of which Local Development Documents it should produce. This has been influenced by policies and proposals in the existing and emerging Local Plan, the Energy Coast agenda, and the national planning policy framework. Completion of the local plan will be one of the Council’s top priorities. It has been deliberately decided to reduce SPD work to a minimum. In this context it is critical that the Annual Monitoring Report should continually address
the issue of commitments and resources, when assessing progress on the Local Plan.

3.14 In addition to work on the Local Plan the planning policy team will lead in supporting Cockermouth Town Council to produce Neighbourhood Development Orders. This project forms part of a national pilot scheme ‘Neighbourhood Frontrunners’. This has implications for the delivery of the Core Strategy as a lot of work will be undertaken in parallel and both projects will need to be resourced.

3.15 Bearing in mind the limited resources available to the Council it is unlikely that any further significant LDDs will be added to the LDS but items may be brought forward where practical and possible.

**Monitoring and Review**

3.16 The Council is required to monitor how effective its policies and proposals are in meeting the vision of the Core Strategy (when prepared). The Council will undertake monitoring on a continual basis. The annual monitoring report will cover the period April to March and will be completed by December. The monitoring will assess:

- Whether the polices and targets in the Local Plan have been met or progress is being made towards meeting them;
- Whether any policies in the Local Plan need to be replaced if they are not working as intended or not achieving sustainable development objectives. If policies need changing or replacing, suggested actions to achieve this will be identified;
- Whether it is meeting, or is on track to meet, the targets set out in the LDDs and, if not, the reasons why; and
- What action is needed to be taken if policies need to be replaced.

3.17 As a result of monitoring the Council will consider what changes, if any, need to be made and will bring forward any such changes through the review of the LDS in the period between April and December of each year.

**Resources and Responsibilities**

3.18 The Council’s Planning Policy Team is responsible for planning policy and conservation. The current resource is as follows

- Principal Planning Officer*;
• Senior Planning Officer*
• 2 Planning Policy Officers*,
• Conservation Officer

* These 4 posts will concentrate on progressing the Local Plan.

Contact details:
Tel: 01900 702610          Fax: 01900 702866
Email: planningpolicy@allerdale.gov.uk

3.20 At August 2013 all posts are filled. Where appropriate, private sector consultants will be commissioned to undertake work on the Council’s behalf, particularly in respect of technical/ specialist studies.

3.21 The Principal Planning Officer will take responsibility for overall programme management, including ensuring that the Annual Monitoring Report is produced on time and that the information is fed into the annual review of the LDS. All decisions are considered by Executive and at the publication and adoption stage by full Council as well.

3.22 Currently for each DPD and the SCI, the levels of political responsibility are as follows:

• Executive for all pre-publication consultation stages.
• Executive and Full Council Resolution required for publication and adoption stages.

3.23 For each SPD, the levels of political responsibility are as follows:

• Executive approval to commence consultation
• Executive and Full Council Resolution required for adoption stage.

3.24 The tables in the appendices set out the timetable for LDD production based on realistic assessment of what can be achieved with the available resources set out above.

Risk Assessment

3.25 In preparing the LDS, it was found that the main areas of risk relate to:
• **Staff resource.** The production of the Local Plan is very resource intensive and delay in one area of work can lead to slippage in the overall work programme. To maintain good progress it is desirable to keep current levels of resource.

• **Soundness of DPDs.** This risk can be minimised by working closely with the Planning Inspectorate at all milestone stages and in the run up to publication of the Local Plan. Lessons from the examination of other local Plans will be learnt. The latest PAS self assessment ‘Tool Kit’ will be used.

• **Legal Challenge.** This will be minimised by ensuring that the Local Plan is “sound” and founded on a robust evidence base and well-audited stakeholder and community engagement systems. Community involvement will be monitored against the Statement of Community Involvement.

• **Programme Slippage.** Unforeseen delays in the production and political approval of the Local Plan could prejudice achievement of the published programme. Additionally, issues of consultation fatigue and the limited response capacity of various community groups and stakeholders could lead to resistance to the timescales which could prejudice the programme.

• **New Legislation, Guidance or Regulations.** National Planning guidance is continually under review. At any time new policy guidance may trigger a need to amend / review the Local Plan and affect timescales for their preparation. Likewise, new legislation or regulations could significantly affect the contents of the LDS and the timescales and milestones against any document.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Title</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
<th>Chain of Conformity</th>
<th>Geographical Coverage</th>
<th>Scoping; evidence base</th>
<th>Consultation on options and SA</th>
<th>Public’n to Secretary of State.</th>
<th>Pre examination</th>
<th>Public Examination</th>
<th>Adopt</th>
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<td>Statement of Community Involvement</td>
<td>Non-development plan</td>
<td>Community involvement</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Borough wide-outside the National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Strategy</td>
<td>Development Plan Document</td>
<td>Sets out vision, objectives and Borough spatial development strategy</td>
<td>Must be in conformity national policy All other LDD’s to be in conformity with Core Strategy</td>
<td>Borough wide-outside the National Park.</td>
<td>Aug 2011</td>
<td>June 2012</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
<td>November 2013</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposals map</td>
<td>Development Plan Documents</td>
<td>Map to illustrate site specific policies and allocations</td>
<td>Initially adopted Local Plan then with Core Strategy and DPDs</td>
<td>Borough – wide outside the National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td></td>
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<td>As above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Development Plan Document      | Development Plan Documents | Map to illustrate site specific policies and allocations                          | Initially adopted Local Plan then with Core Strategy and DPDs   | Borough – wide outside the National Park                    |                        | As above                      | As above                       |                |                   | As above  |
APPENDIX 2  LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT PROFILES
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the Document</th>
<th>STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Role &amp; Content</td>
<td>Sets out the standard and the approach to involving stakeholders and the community in the production of the Local Plan and determination of planning applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geographical Coverage</td>
<td>Borough Wide (outside the Lake District National Park)</td>
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<td>Status</td>
<td>Non Development Plan Local Development Document</td>
</tr>
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<td>Chain of Conformity</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Joint Document? (if so, who with)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timetable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption and publication</td>
<td>March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title of the Document</td>
<td>CORE STRATEGY</td>
</tr>
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<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role &amp; Content</td>
<td>To provide the spatial vision and strategic objectives for the future of Allerdale Borough and the key polices to deliver the Core Strategy up to 2029.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical Coverage</td>
<td>Borough Wide (outside the Lake District National Park)</td>
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<td>Status</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timetable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-production and Document Preparation</td>
<td>Issues and Options completed August 2006. Published September – October 2006.</td>
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| Consultation on Spatial options & Sustainability Appraisal | Sept/Dec 2009  
Preferred options consultation June 2012  
Sustainability Appraisal on-going |
<p>| Publication           | May 2013 |
| Submission to SoS     | Sept 2013 |
| Pre examination Meeting | Nov 2013 |
| Public Examination    | Dec 2013 |
| Receipt of Inspectors Report | March 2014 |
| Adoption, Publication, and Revision of Proposals Maps | March 2014 |
| Arrangements for production | The Planning Policy Section |
| Which department will lead the process | The Planning Policy Section |
| Management arrangements | Executive and full Council |
| Resources required to produce the LDD, including resources committed from external stakeholders. | Planning Policy section will undertake the majority of the work, with input from stakeholders. |
| Approach to involving Stakeholders | In line with adopted SCI and to meet requirements of Regulations |
| Post Production       | |
| Monitoring and Review mechanisms | Determined in the Annual Monitoring Report |</p>
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<th>Title of the Document</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES</th>
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<td>Role &amp; Content</td>
<td>General Development Control Policies</td>
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<td>1 National Policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2 Core Strategy and Policies</td>
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<td>Joint Document? (if so, who with)</td>
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<td>Timetable</td>
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<td>Pre-production and Document Preparation</td>
<td>Oct 2011-January 2012</td>
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<td>Consultation on policy options &amp; Sustainability Appraisal</td>
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<td>Approach to involving Stakeholders</td>
<td>In line with emerging Statement of Community Involvement and to meet requirements of Regulations.</td>
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<td>Post Production</td>
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<td>Determined in the Annual Monitoring Report</td>
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<td>SITE SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS</td>
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<td>Site allocations for development</td>
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<td><strong>Timetable</strong></td>
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<td>Pre-production and Document Preparation</td>
<td>Oct 2012- Dec 2013</td>
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<td>Consultation on options &amp; Sustainability Appraisal</td>
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<td>Determined in the Annual Monitoring Report</td>
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<td>PROPOSALS MAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role &amp; Content</td>
<td>Sets visions, objectives and Spatial Development Strategy.</td>
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<td>Proposals Map evolves as relevant DPDs are adopted</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Allerdale Local Plan and First Alteration</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Core Strategy and Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Site Specific Allocations and Policies</td>
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<td>Publication</td>
<td>Parallels DPD preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission to SoS</td>
<td>Parallels DPD preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre examination meeting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Examination</td>
<td>Parallels DPD preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipt of Inspector’s Report</td>
<td>Parallels DPD preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption, Publication and Revision of Proposals Maps</td>
<td>Parallels DPD preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrangements for production</td>
<td>The Planning Policy Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which department will lead the process</td>
<td>The Planning Policy Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management arrangements</td>
<td>Executive and Full Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources required to produce the LDD, including resources committed from external stakeholders.</td>
<td>Planning Policy section will undertake the majority of the work with some contribution from Stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approach to involving Stakeholders</td>
<td>As set out in the Statement of Community Involvement : Parallels DPD Preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Production</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Review Mechanisms</td>
<td>Will reflect changes as a result of monitoring and reviewing DPDs</td>
</tr>
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</table>
APPENDIX 3: GANTT CHART
### Allerdale Local Development Scheme Overall Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Title</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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**Statement of Community Involvement**
Adopted March 2010

**Evidence Base**
- Open Space Study
  - Complete - Update in progress: due for completion Feb 2014
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
  - Complete
- Biodiversity Database
  - Complete
- Employment Land Study
  - Complete
- Retail Capacity Study
  - Complete
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
  - Complete
- Settlement Profiles
  - Complete
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
  - Complete
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan
  - Complete

**Development Plan Documents**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Plan Documents</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Strategy</td>
<td></td>
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<td>E</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Development Control Policies</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Specific Allocations</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposals Map (1)</td>
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**Annual Monitoring Report**

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**Key:**
- Scoping: Evidence Base
- Preperation of Document
- Consideration and Review
- Options Consultation
- Publication
- Submission to SoS
- Public Examination
- Receipt of Inspector’s Report
- Publication/Adoption

**Notes:**
1. To be completed in parallel with the SSLs, with constant amending and updating as new documents are adopted.
GLOSSARY


Annual monitoring report: part of the Local Development Framework, the annual monitoring report will assess the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in Local Development Documents are being successfully implemented.

Area action plan: used to provide a planning framework for areas of change and areas of conservation. Area Action Plans will have the status of Development Plan Documents.

Chain of conformity: this ensures that the interrelationships between the different local development documents are clear and that the local development framework as a whole is consistent with national policy.

Community strategy: local authorities are required by the Local Government Act 2000 to prepare these, with aim of improving the social, environmental and economic well being of their areas. Through the Community Strategy, authorities are expected to co-ordinate the actions of local public, private, voluntary and community sectors. Responsibility for producing Community Strategies may be passed to Local Strategic Partnerships, which include local authority representatives.

Core strategy: set out the long-term spatial vision for the local planning authority area, the spatial objectives and strategic policies to deliver that vision. The Core Strategy will have the status of a Development Plan Document.

Development plan: as set out in Section 38(6) of the Act, an authority’s development plan consists of the relevant Regional Spatial Strategy (or the Spatial Development Strategy in London) and the Development Plan Documents contained within its Local Development Framework. (Once the Localism Bill becomes statute then the Regional Spatial Strategy would not form part of the Authority’s Development Plan)

Development plan documents: spatial planning documents that are subject to independent examination, and will form the development plan for a local authority area for the purposes of the Act. They can include a Core Strategy, Site Specific Allocations of land, and Area Action Plans (where needed). Other Development Plan Documents, including generic Development Management Policies, can be produced. They will all be shown geographically on an adopted proposals map. Individual Development Plan Documents or parts of a document can be reviewed independently from other Development Plan Documents. Each authority must set out the programme for preparing its Development Plan Documents in the Local Development Scheme.
Generic development management policies: these will be a suite of criteria-based policies which are required to ensure that all development within the areas meets the spatial vision and spatial objectives set out in the Core Strategy. They may be included in any Development Plan Document or may form a standalone document.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA): Sometimes referred to as “Appropriate Assessment” (AA). An assessment, required as a result of the European Union’s habitat Regulations, of the impact which any development may have on any designated Natura 2000 site (Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA)).

Key diagram: authorities may wish to use a key diagram to illustrate broad locations of future development.


Local development framework: the name for the portfolio of Local Development Documents. It consists of Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents, a Statement of Community Involvement, the Local Development Scheme and Annual Monitoring Reports. Together these documents will provide the framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for a local authority area and may also include local development orders and simplified planning zones.

Local development scheme: sets out the programme for preparing Local Development Documents.

Local strategic partnership: partnerships of stakeholders who develop ways of involving local people in shaping the future of their neighbourhood in how services are provided. They are often single non-statutory, multi-agency bodies which aim to bring together locally the public, private, community and voluntary sectors, e.g. Primary Care Trust, Police, youth Service, etc.

Local transport plan: 5-year strategy prepared by each local authority for the development of local, integrated transport, supported by a programme of transport improvements. It is used to bid to Government for funding transport improvements.

National Planning Policy Framework: sets out national planning policy guidance which is a material planning consideration in planning decisions.

Proposals map: the adopted proposals map illustrates on a base map (reproduced from, or based upon a map base to a registered scale) all the policies contained in Development Plan Documents, together with any saved policies. It must be revised as each new Development Plan
Document is adopted, and it should always reflect the up-to-date planning strategy for the area. Proposals for changes to the adopted proposals map accompany submitted development plan documents in the form of a submission proposals map.


Saved policies or plans: existing adopted development plans are saved for three years from the date of commencement of the Act. Any policies in old style development plans adopted after commencement of the Act will become saved policies for three years from their adoption or approval. The Local Development Scheme should explain the authority’s approach to saved policies. There is also a process by which such policies can be saved beyond the time specified in the Act. Allerdale has saved policies from the Allerdale Local Plan and the Allerdale Local Plan First Alteration policies.

Site specific allocations: allocations of sites for specific or mixed uses or development to be contained in Development Plan Documents. Policies will identify any specific requirements for individual proposals.

Statement of Community Involvement: sets out the standards which authorities will achieve with regard to involving local communities in the preparation of local development documents and development management decisions. The statement of community Involvement is not a development plan document.

Strategic environmental assessment: a generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The European ‘SEA Directive’ (2001/42/EC) requires a formal ‘environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use’.

Supplementary plan documents: provide supplementary information in respect of the policies in Development Plan Documents. They do not form part of the Development Plan and are not subject to independent examination.

Sustainability appraisal (SA): tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors) and required in the Act to be undertaken for all local development documents. SA incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive (see above).
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