

CABINET - 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2003

## DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek a supplementary estimate of £80,000 to cover the costs of taking the revised District Local Plan through public inquiry to adoption.

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Objections to the reviewed policies of the District Local Plan are due to be heard at a public inquiry, starting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2003. It is expected that the Inquiry Inspector will report with recommendations to the Council in the summer of 2004, leading to adoption of the revised local plan by the end of 2004.
- 2.2 The costs of preparation of the local plan are met from a fund maintained specifically for this purpose into which revenue budget contributions are made from time to time as required. The costs and revenue budget implications have been considered at various times during the preparation and review of the plan.
- 2.3 Originally at the commencement of the review a bid was made for £200,000 to be contributed in the year 2002/03 to meet the full costs including a public local inquiry. This was revised through the expenditure plan process in 2001 in order to make savings and to defer expenditure in line with the programme for the plan review at that time. The revised provision was for contributions of £75,000 and £50,000 to be made in the years 2003/04 and 2004/05 respectively.
- 2.4 During the portfolio discussions through the expenditure plan process in 2002 it was decided to delete the above contributions totalling £125,000. It was noted at that time that expenditure from the local plan fund was being used to cover the costs incurred by the Council in representing its case at the National Park Inquiry, rather than by making a separate expenditure bid for this work at that time. It was also noted that a provisional estimate for the local plan inquiry showed a likely additional expenditure of £80,000 would be required, but the numbers of objections and therefore length and cost of the public inquiry was not certain. Also Inquiry Inspector fees were being revised and were likely to increase significantly.
- 2.5 has allocated an inspector to hear objections and have submitted their revised fees and charges. By far the largest part of the costs is the Inspectorate fees, which total £132,000. In order to cover these costs together with associated legal and consultants fees a supplementary estimate of £80,000 is sought as a contribution for 2003/04 to the local plan fund.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The local plan fund balance at 1 April 2003 totalled £121,325.43. The revised costs of taking the revised District Local Plan through public inquiry to adoption is estimated at £201,000, thus a supplementary estimate of £80,000 is required to fund the balance.

### **4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report

### **5 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report

### **6 PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS**

- 6.1 The Portfolio Holder agrees the recommendation made in this report.

### **7 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 Members are requested to approved a supplementary estimate of £80,000 in 2003/04 for taking the revised District Local Plan through public inquiry to adoption. Any future costs will be presented through the expenditure plan process.

#### **Further Information:**

John Ward  
Head of Policy Design and Information  
Telephone: 023 8028 5348  
E-mail: [john.ward@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:john.ward@nfdc.gov.uk).

#### **Background Papers**

None