

Committee: AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: 27 June 2008

Report PLANNING POLICY PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2008

Purpose of report

1. To set out details of a major review of the Authority's Planning Policy service and to recommend a set of actions to improve performance.

Strategic Planning Framework

- **Best Value Performance Plan 2007/08**

Planning policy is categorised as a medium priority programme 'where we will maintain a good level of service and/or make steady improvements'

It falls under the objective:

'Ensure that there are up-to-date (that is less than 5 years old) Local Development Plans covering the National Park, which properly reflect national park purposes and provide a clear and consistent framework for planning decisions.'

Context

2. Last year the Audit and Review Committee selected two areas for performance review. One was the Authority's provision of public toilets and the other was its delivery of planning policy.
3. Planning policy was selected because Members considered that there had been:

'Considerable slippage in the adoption of the local plan, which was further compounded by the delay in publishing it. The milestones set in the Local Development Framework for 2006/07— for consulting on housing (issues and options), and minerals and waste Issues and options — were also missed. The new cycle of public consultation on each LDF document, followed subsequently by Public Inquiry, will inevitably require raised expenditure over the long term, making this an area worthy of review.'
4. A performance working group consisting of two members (Yvonne Peacock and Harold Brown) and three officers (Richard Daly, Peter Watson and Peter Stockton) has undertaken the review.

Summary of performance group findings

5. The full report is attached. In summary the group felt that making planning policy and shaping future development is a crucial part of the Authority's responsibilities. It considered that the late adoption of the Local Plan in 2006 had delayed progress towards the new Local Development Framework. Members of the group felt that the delays evident through BVPP monitoring could have harmful implications for the Authority's duty to seek to foster the social and economic well being of local communities, particularly the opportunity to proactively tackle the shortfall of affordable housing through the identification of sites for development.
6. The group considered a list of options for improving performance. These are set out in the attached report. After considering each option the group recommends the following specific actions:

A. Increase the priority given to planning policy

Planning policy, which is the Authority's main tool for tackling affordable housing and other sustainable development issues, is presently categorised as a "Programme where we will maintain a good level of service and/or make steady improvements". The Authority should revisit this and consider raising planning policy into a higher priority programme. This would increase the Authority's commitment to guiding new development in accordance with National Park purposes. It would also improve the Authority's contribution to the social and economic well being of local communities by influencing the type, location, quantity and quality of future development.

B. Commit more staff to the Yorkshire Dales Development Framework

A permanent post should be added to the planning department to work specifically on planning policy. At the moment two members of staff are working on the LDF but only one of these posts is permanently attached to policy. The Trainee Planning Officer (TPO), will eventually revert to development control duties. Unless resources are increased it is likely that progress will once again slow when the policy team reduces to one full time equivalent.

The cost of an additional Band C post would be £23,749 - £30,598 per annum + on-costs, £30,754-£37,450, including on-costs. (See paragraph 9.3 of the Review)

C. Increase speed of decision making. Consider delegation of decisions on procedures to the Head of Planning and Forward Planning Champion.

Potential delays lie ahead because policy decisions can only be made every two months at Authority meetings. This is because the Authority has decided that there should be a separation between making planning policy and implementing it through determining planning applications. Consequently it was determined that policy matters should be dealt with by all Members in the full Authority. The role of the Planning

Committee has therefore narrowed and is now only concerned with development control.

However, the working group believes that the process could be speeded up if more procedural decisions are delegated. Policy decisions should remain with the Authority. It is therefore proposed that the following paragraph be added to the powers delegated to the Head of Planning under the Authority's Scheme of Delegation: 'In consultation with the Forward Planning Member Champion, to determine the procedures to be followed in preparing the documents required by the approved Local Development Scheme.'

The performance group recommended against the option of **Engaging consultants to do some of the core policy work**. The reason for this is the likely increased expense and loss of detailed project control.

The group also discussed other options to improve performance such as increasing partnership working on planning guidance and enhancing existing staff capabilities through training. However it was agreed that mechanisms are already in place to do these.

RECOMMENDATION

7. That the Audit and Review Committee considers the actions at A-C in this report and, if in agreement with them, recommends to the Authority that they are implemented.
8. That the Financial Implications to be funded from the Opportunities Fund in 2008-09 and funded from the Revenue budget in the following years.

Peter Watson
Head of Planning
12 June 2008

Background documents:

Performance Improvement Review, Planning Policy, April 2008
Best Value Performance Plan 2007/08

**PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT REVIEW
PLANNING POLICY
April 2008**

The issue

In what area are we underperforming?

1.1 Progress in achieving milestones in the Local Development Scheme (the project plan for delivering the Yorkshire Dales Development Framework 2006 - 2021).

Why does it matter?

2.1 Delays to the review of planning policy will affect the extent to which the Authority can influence emerging development challenges such as the consequences of changes to the rural economy, demographic change, access to housing, trends in visitor management and some of the implications of climate change.

2.2 Right now the Authority is concentrating its YDDF work on a review of housing policy. The review is looking to release more sites for affordable housing. Affordable housing is a high priority for each of the three local housing authorities and is set out as such in their community strategies and within the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy. It also appears as a Community and Culture objective within the National Park Management Plan.

2.3 Poor planning policy progress could therefore harm the Authority's relationship with local communities and other partnerships that put priority on the delivery of issues such as affordable housing. Delays in the review of housing policy might ultimately undermine the conservation of the environment and the public's enjoyment of the national park, which are to some extent dependent on the well being of local communities.

2.4 Continued slippage may also undermine some of the supporting evidence in the YDDF, such as the district housing needs surveys. This may reduce the effectiveness of policy and proposals before they are even implemented and cause further delays if a planning Inspector is not convinced by the robustness of the Authority's case presented at public examination.

2.5 The government's award of its Housing and Planning Delivery Grant to the Authority will be dependent on YDDF progress, as this is the only area where the NPA is likely to remain eligible to receive funding. Poor progress will result in little if any money at a time when the Authority is under financial pressure and looking to increase external funding.

What are we supposed to be achieving?

3.1 The BVPP objectives for planning policy in 2007/08 are;

Ensure that there are up-to-date (that is, less than five years old) local development plans covering the National Park, which properly reflect national park purposes and provide a clear and consistent framework for planning decisions.

By 2008 use the Local Development Framework to set targets for increasing the amount of affordable and local needs housing, and then work through partnerships to meet those targets, including through social housing for rent, subsidised ownership, and shared ownership. (CC1)

3.2 Both of these targets have been achieved or are well on their way. However monitoring of the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which is the detailed project plan for the YDDF, reveals that most of the milestones have slipped (Appendix 1).

Current performance

What are we actually achieving?

4.1 The LDS has already been revised once. The original version prepared in 2005 was far too optimistic. All of its milestones were missed. These were reported in the Best Value Performance Plan Indicators for 2007/08 (Appendix 2).

4.2 A review of the LDS was agreed by the Authority in March 2007. That timetable has also slipped. Appendix 1 illustrates this by comparing the intended progress in March 2007 with actual progress made by May 2008.

4.3 So far progress has only reached public consultation on the Housing Issues and Options paper. A working group of members has met three times to consider the public response to that and select its preferred policy options. The next formal stage is to publish the 'Preferred Options' together with reasons for choosing them and rejecting the others. However a lot more evidence needs to be gathered before that stage is reached.

4.4 The preferred options stage was intended to be reached by June 2008. This will not happen and will now slip back much further, possibly into next year. In the interim three separate pieces of housing work are taking place. Firstly the Authority is engaging a housing research consultancy to try to find out the viability of allocating housing sites for a high proportion of affordable housing. This work should then lead on to an invitation to landowners to propose sites for allocation. These will be exposed to public consultation and then assessed against planning criteria before deciding on preferred sites. Secondly the Authority is carrying out a review of its list of sustainable settlements for new housing. Thirdly, planning officers are going to carry out a light touch review of the housing development boundaries in consultation with Parish Councils.

4.5 Work is also under progress with other aspects of the YDDF. A third Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) of planning performance was discussed by Members and published on the Authority's website in January. A fourth AMR will begin this summer. A good start has also been made on a sustainability appraisal. This is a technical and somewhat complex document that accompanies the YDDF throughout its preparation and monitoring. Its purpose is to inform the potential impact of planning policy. It was recently the subject of a targeted consultation process. A Statement of Community Involvement

(the Authority's strategy for involving the public in Planning) is also progressing and a final submission version will be issued to government office for scrutiny in June.

4.6 Progress on the Minerals and Waste DPD is currently on hold pending a review of its objectives. The recent receipt of several major quarrying applications will probably determine the future of aggregate quarrying in the national park over the next 15 years, potentially making a review of policy at this stage, unnecessary. It may be that the work carried out so far is progressed as guidance rather than a review of policy.

4.7 In fact every local planning authority is taking a slightly different approach to its Development Framework. It is probably fair to say though that this Authority is behind most (Appendix 3). A notable difference is that other authorities have chosen to prepare their 'Core Strategy' first. This is the document that sets out the overall strategic direction of development within an area. This authority has decided instead to focus on a review of housing policy. Once its new housing policies are adopted it will then prepare a Core Strategy which will probably also review all the other areas of policy currently contained within the Local Plan.

4.8 The National Park Authority is not alone in slipping against its LDS timetable. Virtually every planning authority in England has done so. Within North Yorkshire, Hambleton is the only District to have so far replaced part of its Local Plan policies under the new system. Within the English National Parks the Broads Authority has made the most progress (see paragraph 6.3)

How is the service being delivered and what resources are being put in?

5.1 The Authority has one Planning Officer working permanently on policy, the Strategic Planning Officer (SPO). At times over the last 15 years that post has been supported by other members of staff. For short periods the Area Planning Officers have contributed eg. during the last settlement survey in 2001 and during the Local Plan Inquiry in May 2004. Members of the Authority have also spent a lot of their own time working on planning policy, at home, in public meetings, committees and working groups.

5.2 In July 2007 the Authority's Trainee Planning Officer (TPO) moved out of Development Control to start gaining experience in planning policy. So far he has prepared the Authority's Annual Monitoring Report, co-coordinated and produced the first stages of its Sustainability Appraisal and assisted with important aspects of housing policy. However this post is not permanently attached to Planning Policy and will eventually move back into other departmental duties. On qualification the TPO will be offered the first suitable Planning Officer vacancy, and the only available posts are in Development Control.

5.3 With the adoption of the Local Plan in 2006 the Strategic Planning Officer (SPO) has the task of progressing its replacement, the YDDF. Other members of the department will work on planning policy but only for a small proportion of their time.

5.4 Twenty percent of the Head of Planning's time is allotted to managing policy work. This involves managing the SPO and providing corporate leadership on planning policy at National Park Authority meetings, within the Senior Management Team and in partnership with other agencies. The Minerals Officer also spends a variable amount of his time on

planning policy but this does not usually exceed 10%. This time also includes working on regional minerals apportionment as well as preparing the Minerals and Waste DPD. No other staff are allocated to policy work and support is limited to occasional administrative work.

5.5 Fourteen members of the Authority sit in either of the two Working Groups that have been established to review housing and minerals and waste policy (Appendix 6). The Forward Planning Champion is also spending increasing amounts of her time on the YDDF as it progresses. The Working Groups report back to the Authority for decision making.

5.6 Not all planning policy time is however employed in the production of the YDDF. Thirty percent of SPO and TPO time is spent on local plan implementation, development control enquiries, affordable housing project work, national and regional planning matters, training and corporate work.

5.7 The cost to the Authority of planning policy work is measured in terms of salaries, other staff and member costs and a variable, annual budget. Staff costs have been more or less fixed over the last 6 years at about £50k, predominantly made up of SPO salary and costs. The policy budget however has fluctuated substantially as it is set each year on the basis of programmed work and will therefore vary, according to the consultation & publication costs expected. The lowest it has been is £4,000. The highest it has been was during the 07/08 financial year at £36k. Twenty six thousand pounds is allocated for 08/09, predominantly for YDDF work (Appendix 4). Extraordinary costs, above these figures, were incurred during the Local Plan Inquiry in 2004 and will be incurred again (to a lesser magnitude) during formal examination on the YDDF, perhaps in two years time.

5.8 The main budget costs tend to be advertising and printing although this year there will also be a substantial consultancy cost, to undertake the affordable housing viability research.

5.9 Appendix 5 compares staff resources at all the English National Parks. It will be noted that resources in all the other national parks, except Northumberland, are greater. However since the Authority's post of Trainee Planning Officer is only temporarily attached to planning policy, it will once again eventually drop to one full time equivalent and that will no doubt affect performance again. (See also paragraph 6.3)

5.10 Various professional networks exist for sharing information and preparing for the new LDF system. Two officer policy groups meet specifically to discuss development framework issues. One is the North Yorkshire Development Plan Officers Group and the other is the National Park Policy Officers Group. Both report to their respective 'Heads of Planning' groups. Officers are also actively involved in various partnerships, notably the district affordable housing groups. The new system of 'Spatial Planning', of which the new development frameworks are a part, is also leading to significant re skilling and training of planning officers. This programme is mainly being coordinated by the Royal Town Planning Institute. Officers are taking advantage of this where possible.

Does it represent value for money to the Authority?.

6.1 So far spending on the YDDF has been cautious and to date the policy budgets have tended to be under spent. Unlike many other planning authorities, all the work on the YDDF so far has been carried out by the Authority, including the Sustainability Appraisal. Only one significant consultancy contract has been let, to investigate affordable housing viability. To date less than £10k has been spent on the YDDF, mostly on public notices placed in local newspapers.

6.2 Compared with the other national parks and local planning authorities the YDDF is being prepared for a low price. However whether this constitutes value for money or not, in terms of the Authority's desired progress, the modest scale of development in the area, the limited scope to collect the new housing & planning delivery grant and the Authority's corporate priorities, is rather more difficult to calculate.

6.3 An attempt has been made to compare the amount of officer time each National Park Authority has expended against the amount of progress made (Appendix 7). It should be borne in mind that the information obtained does not support a detailed comparison, because it does not compare the remit of posts within other NPAs with our own, nor analyse the complexity of respective circumstances or procedures. Nonetheless, in terms of actually adopting key documents, it is clear that the Broads Authority has made the best progress to date. It has managed to produce and adopt a Core Strategy using only one full time officer, with occasional support. The Broads is however the smallest national park by area and has a population of only 5,600. The Park boundary only includes the floodplains of the area's rivers and there are no significant settlements. Its Core Strategy did not contain any detailed Development Control policies and was therefore not controversial. They have however decided that one full time officer is insufficient and are currently considering increasing their staffing.

The evaluation

Are the current objectives realistic and practical?

7.1 The preparation of planning policy is a legal requirement of a local planning authority. Preparation of the YDDF is therefore a mandatory function of the Authority. It does however have some discretion over which parts of its policies to review and when, and it can decide to prepare some documents jointly with other authorities, if it wishes.

7.2 The timetable for preparation is devised by officers. Unfortunately the length of time taken to move the new system forward has consistently been underestimated. Project managing any review of contentious planning policy is always fraught with delays and problems because of the complexity of the statutory requirements and the opportunity for public participation. It is an impossible process to dictate because the Authority is not in control of all its elements.

7.3 This was evident with the delays to the Local Plan and will become evident again when the YDDF reaches its site selection and site consultation stages. Very large amounts of money and contentious issues of personal amenity will be at stake. Experience suggests that this will be the stage when the majority of people will wish to get involved,

lobbying for or against the development of land. Trying to manage the process by forcing it through a predetermined timetable will probably not be possible.

7.4 Since the Authority measures its progress in relation to the LDS, then the appropriate course of action is to revise the LDS and build significant additional time into the review, making as much allowance as possible for the anticipated reaction to site consultation and the parts of the process that the Authority cannot control. Government Office will probably not look favourably on this but will appreciate that the new system isn't working particularly well because it is already having to amend it through Act of Parliament.

Why are we not achieving the desired result ?

8.1 A key reason for the delay to the YDDF is the delay in adopting the Local Plan. The Local Plan was delayed because of late changes to its housing policies. A draft was published in May 2002 which led to a small number of objections to the list of H3 'conversion settlements'. This coincided with a high profile planning application that challenged the Authority's residential conversion policy. Members decided to delay the Plan and resurvey the list of H3 settlements. Eventually 39 additional ones were added to the second deposit list, when it was published in May 2003. This was a significant change that attracted strong counter objection and led to the issue being contested at the Local Plan Inquiry during 2004. The Inspector's report was published in December 2004 and discussed by the Authority during Spring 2005. His recommendation to revert to the first deposit list led to further debate. Eventually a set of post inquiry changes were agreed and began to be used for development control purposes from April 2005. Formal adoption had to wait another 12 months because of further procedural, editorial and legal issues. There was then another significant delay whilst the plan was printed, partly caused by a lack of digital mapping capacity and a positional correction to the Authority's base maps.

8.2 The new LDF system which consults on the basis of policy options and only provides the detailed policy wording at the end of the process, may help prevent some of these fluctuations from reoccurring. Also the existence of a Forward Planning Champion should help provide the leadership, discipline and consistency necessary from within the Membership, to progress policy in a logical and efficient manner.

8.3 In comparison, authorities such as Craven, Richmondshire and the other National Parks had all adopted their Local Plans before 2002 and were therefore preparing for the new system prior to enactment, in 2004. However the new system remains untested. Despite a two year head start most other authorities have also slipped against their own timetables, which suggest a common underestimation of the complexity. A new Act of Parliament during 2008 is intended to simplify the procedures and hopefully speed up the process. Nevertheless all planning officers are reporting difficulty understanding the new system and its avalanche of guidance and procedure. Some authorities have progressed too quickly only to have a Planning Inspector find that their policies 'unsound' at examination, sending them back to the start. This happened disastrously to Ryedale District Council last year. Appendix 3 shows District Council progress for comparison.

8.4 Government originally intended that local planning authorities would spend part of their planning delivery grant on their development frameworks. This has not been possible

with the YDDF because of delayed progress with the Local Plan and the higher corporate priority attributed to improving performance in Development Control and Enforcement (Appendix 8). Authorities such as Craven District Council and the Lake District NPA have contracted out large parts of their LDF at significant cost. Perhaps unsurprisingly the authorities that have made the best progress are those that have put planning policy at the top of their agendas and expended substantial resources on it. Hambleton District Council is a good example. It is a Beacon Authority for 'promoting sustainable communities through the planning process' and has made its development framework a corporate priority, winning accolades for its progress. It has however cost the Authority a lot of money.

8.5 One potential problem that this Authority may encounter is the effect on reporting timetables of moving from a monthly planning policy committee to a bi monthly Authority meeting. Reporting the Local Plan to a working group and then to a monthly planning committee proved a slow process. Delaying this procedure, potentially by a further month, is bound to extend production timetables for the YDDF. Delegating decisions on procedures to the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Forward Planning Champion, might be one way to ease progress.

8.6 Another potential difficulty that can be foreseen is the availability of digital mapping. An inability to produce maps proved to be a problem during the Local Plan preparation. It was side stepped creatively, rather than professionally! This time the emphasis is going to be even more firmly fixed on the identification and discussion of sites. The Authority will need the ability to compile and publish digital maps quickly and simply. This is going to require provision of software, licences and some additional training and it is going to need to be done within the next six months.

What are the potential options for improvement?

- **Increase the priority given to planning policy**

9.1 Planning policy is the Authority's main tool for influencing the location, type, quality and quantity of new development in the National Park. It is a powerful regulatory and proactive force for the conservation and enhancement of the National Park and for the social and economic development of its population. It is a potential means of assisting sustainability and tackling climate change. If the Authority does not provide leadership on planning policy, others will.

9.2 Planning policy is currently only of medium priority to the Authority falling as it does in the category of "Programmes where we will maintain a good level of service and/or make steady improvements". . It should revisit its corporate priorities and consider raising it (Appendix 8). This would support and possibly enhance existing planning policy resources to help improve performance. Members should be aware however that an implication of moving Planning Policy up the priority list would be to move another project area down.

- **Commit more staff to the YDDF**

9.3 The Authority should create another permanent post to work on planning policy. The objective would be to create a permanent team of two to maintain momentum and add synergy to the process of solving development problems and progressing the YDDF. Adding resource to planning policy will maintain current progress and help prevent further slippage when the Trainee Planning Officer post moves back into development control. It will also reduce the risk of loss of momentum should the SPO ever become unavailable for work.

Financial implication – long term increased planning policy budgets and staffing costs.

There are two obvious options for achieving this.

Option 1 To add one Planning Officer post to the establishment, within the Planning Policy Section. Qualified POs are paid Band C in a range between £23,749 - £30,598 , plus on-costs.

The cost of Option 1 would be an additional £23,749 - £30,598 per annum plus on-costs, (£30,754-£37,450, including on-costs)

Option 2 To replace the current Trainee Planning Officer post, currently a Band D post £17,781-£25,320, plus on-costs. On qualification, TPOs move automatically from Band D to Band C. The current TPO is expected to qualify this autumn, after which he will be paid in Band C until such time as a suitable vacancy occurs in Development Control. The TPO post would then normally be re-advertised at Band D. A cheaper option would be to offer the post holder, on qualification, the post created by Option 1, and then delete or freeze the TPO post.

The cost of Option 2 would initially be neutral.

From when the next Development Control post became vacant the cost would be the difference between Bands D & C, ie £5,268 at the top of the Bands, plus on-costs.

- **Engage consultants to do some of the core work**

9.4 The Authority should not engage consultants to carry out mainstream planning policy work. As with planning applications and enforcement, planning policy is a continuous process that does not have a finite endpoint. Consultancy, can only ever be a short term option and one that is likely to be expensive. Engaging consultants to carry out the YDDF may also risk losing some of the close control over policy making.

Financial implication – Not engaging consultants will almost certainly save the Authority money compared with creating a new post.

- **Increase partnership working by carrying out shared policy documents eg. supplementary planning guidance.**

9.5 Partnership working already takes place on housing projects and across the sub region on issues such as flood risk and renewable energy. This helps to reduce costs and create synergy. In future there may be more opportunities to produce joint Supplementary Planning Documents with neighbouring districts, county councils, the regional assembly and other national parks. However going the next stage and working jointly on planning policy may prove more difficult, because of the problems of coordinating reporting arrangements and getting consensus over a wider area.

Financial implication – probably not significant since costs would be shared.

- **Enhance existing staff capabilities to deliver the new planning system more effectively through training, shadowing, discussion, appraisal etc.**

9.6 The Local Development Framework process is new, complex and evolving. Officers need to keep up with developments, new techniques and efficient means of working. Existing training opportunities and professional partnerships already exist to do this and officers will take advantage where possible. However there is also the risk that spending too long training is a diversion away from the actual work and to a large extent officers will just have to push through the system as quickly as possible.

Financial implication – probably not great except in terms of the time spent away from core YDDF work.

- **Increase speed of decision making. Consider deciding procedural matters by greater delegation to the Head of Planning and Forward Planning Champion.**

9.7 Potential delays lie ahead because decisions can now only be made every two months at Authority meetings, rather than monthly at planning committee. This is a deliberate and logical strategy of the Authority to separate policy formulation from implementation, in an attempt to improve performance of both. However there may be opportunities to delegate more procedural decision making down to the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Forward Planning Champion. The advantage of doing that may be quicker progress and more focused leadership.

Local development scheme Intended progress (March 2007)

YDDF	Procedure	2007												2008											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Local Plans	Print Adopted Plan																								
	Save Local Plans																								
Sustainability Appraisal	Scope YDDF																								
	Appraisal																								
Housing DPD	Gather evidence																								
	Issues and Options																								
	Search for sites preferred options																								
	Submit to SofS																								
	Pre examination meeting																								
	Examination																								
	Report																								
	Adoption																								
Minerals and Waste DPD	Gather evidence																								
	Issues and Options																								
	preferred options																								
	Submit to SofS																								
	Pre examination meeting																								
	Examination																								
	Report and Adoption																								
Statement of Community Involvement	Prepare SCI																								
	Draft SCI																								
	Consider Representations																								

Local development scheme Intended progress (March 2007)

YDDF	Procedure	2007												2008											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	Prepare submission SCI																								
	Submit to SofS																								
	Report and Adoption																								
Agricultural Buildings Design Guide SPD	Finalise																								
	Adopt																								
Design guide (first review) SPD	Gather Evidence																								
	Prepare Draft Consultation																								
	Finalise																								
	Adopt																								

Local development Scheme Actual progress at May 2008

YDDF	Procedure	2007												2008											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Local Plans	Print Adopted Plan																								
	Save Local Plans																								
Sustainability Appraisal	Scope YDDF																								
	Appraisal																								
Housing DPD	Gather evidence																								
	Issues and Options																								
	Settlement Survey																								
	Search for sites preferred options																								
	Submit to SofS																								
	Pre examination meeting																								
	Examination																								
	Report																								
	Adoption																								
	Minerals and Waste DPD	Gather evidence																							
Issues and Options preferred options																									
Submit to SofS																									
Pre examination meeting																									
Examination																									
Report and																									

Local development Scheme Actual progress at May 2008

YDDF	Procedure	2007												2008											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Statement of Community Involvement	Adoption																								
	Prepare SCI																								
	Draft SCI																								
	Consider Representations																								
	Second draft SCI																								
	Prepare submission SCI																								
	Submit to SofS																								
	Report and Adoption																								
	Agricultural Buildings Design Guide SPD	Finalise																							
	Adopt																								
Design guide (first review) SPD	Gather Evidence																								
	Prepare Draft																								
	Consultation																								
	Finalise																								
	Adopt																								

Best value performance indicators

Forward planning

Ref	Performance indicator	05/06	06/07		07/08	08/09	09/10	
		actual	target	actual	best NPA	target	target	target
N BV200	a) Did the local planning authority submit the Local Development Scheme (LDS) by 28 March 2005 and thereafter maintain a three-year rolling programme?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	b) Has the local planning authority met the milestones which the current LDS sets out?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	c) Did the local planning authority publish an annual monitoring report by December of the last year?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a

Other Local Planning Authorities' LDF Progress March 2008

		Document			
	LPA	SCI	Core Strategy	DPDs	SPDs / AAAs
National Park Authorities	Yorkshire Dales	2nd Draft Jan 2008	Not Commenced	Housing & Minerals & Waste - Issues & Options	Design Guide – Pre-production Landscape Character – Pre-production
	Dartmoor	Adopted Jan 2007	Examination Dec 2007	Dev Con & Min Waste Policies - Preferred Options	Design Guide – Public consultation
	Exmoor	Adopted Aug 2006	Issues & Options	Pre-production	Design Guide – Public consultation
	New Forest	Adopted March 2007	Preferred Options	Minerals & Waste CS - Adopted, Minerals & Waste Policies – Preferred Options	Design Guide – Pre-production
	Broads	Adopted Jan 2006	Adopted Sept 2007	Development Control Policies – Preferred Options	Development & Flood Risk - Public consultation
	Peak District	Adopted Dec 2006	Preferred Options	Development Control Policies - Pre-production	Design Guide - Adopted Feb 2007
	North York Moors	Adopted Aug 2006	Submission Jan 2008 (includes Devt. Policies)	Pre-production	Renewable Energy, Design Guide, Housing, Village Design Statement, Conservation Area - Public consultation
	Lake District*	Adopted June 2006	Issues & Options (P.O. May 2008)	Development Control Policies - Pre-production	Wind Energy – Adopted Aug 2007, Landscape Character * Highway Design – Pre-production
	Northumberland	Adopted May 2006	Preferred Options (includes Devt. Policies)	Land Allocations - Preferred Options	Design Guide - Adopted Nov 2006, Otterburn Camp - Adopted April 2007, Historic Villages - Adopted April 2007

Other Local Planning Authorities' LDF Progress March 2008

		Document			
	LPA	SCI	Core Strategy	DPDs	SPDs / AAAs
Districts	Richmondshire	Adopted Nov 2006	Preferred Options	Pre-production	Catterick Garrison Area Action Plan - Issues & Options January 2008
	Craven	Adopted June 2006	Preferred Options	Land Allocations - Issues & Options	None
	South Lakeland*	Adopted Sept 2006	Preferred Options	Pre-production	Wind Energy - Adopted Aug 2007, Landscape Character & Highway Design - Pre-production, Kendal Canal Area Action Plan - Issues & Options
	Hambleton	Adopted March 2006	Adopted April 2007	Development Control Policies - Adopted Feb 2008, Allocations - Preferred Options	Affordable Housing – Public consultation
	Teesdale	Adopted June 2007	Issues & Options	Pre-production	Affordable Housing – Public consultation
	Eden*	Adopted Oct 2006	Preferred Options	Development Control & Housing - Issues & Options	Shopfront & Adverts – Adopted Nov 2006, Accessibility - Adopted June 2006, Wind Energy - Adopted Aug 2007, Landscape Character - Pre-production
	Carlisle* \$	Submission due March 2008	Not Commenced	Pre-production	Denton Holme Design Guide - Adopted Jan 2007, Dalston Design Guide - Public consultation, Wind Energy - Adopted Aug 2007, Numerous reviews of existing SPG

Other Local Planning Authorities' LDF Progress March 2008

* Cumbrian Authorities have produced/are producing joint Supplementary Planning Guidance for Wind Energy, Landscape Character & Highway Design

\$ Carlisle City Council will be one of the last planning authorities in the country to adopt a Local Plan (due April 2008)

Progress is noted according to the following terms:

Not Commenced – work yet to start

Pre-production – evidence gathering and preparation for first stage of consultation

Issues & Options – initial preparation stage outlining possible strategy options

Preferred Options – second preparation stage committing to a particular strategy direction

Submission – final document submitted to Secretary of State for consideration

Examination – government inspector examines soundness of document in public meeting

Adoption – document found to be sound and available for use by the planning authority

NB – SPD follows different procedure where only three stages are noted: Pre-pro

Development Plan Budget bid - 08/09

Description		APR	JUL	OCT	JAN	TOTAL
Housing DPD	Advertising	2,000		4,000		6,000
	Printing		1,000			1,000
	Venue Hire	0	0	0	0	0
Minerals and Waste DPD	Advertising	0	0	0	0	0
	Printing	0	0	0	0	0
Sustainability Appraisal	Consultancy	0	0	0	0	0
	Printing		500			500
	Venue Hire	0	0	0	0	0
Statement of Community involvement	Advertising	2,000		2,000		4,000
	Printing	500				500
YDDF general	Consultancy	11,500				11,500
	Research	2,000				2,000
						25,500

National Park Staff Resources Planning Policy and Management Plan April 2008

Each National Park Authority was asked to state their number of full time equivalent staff and support staff working in planning policy and management plan work. They were also asked about the relative priority afforded to planning policy. Most authorities do not however have a formal system for prioritising generic areas of work so the priority column is an estimate from their statements.

CONTACT	Priority	Planning Policy		Management Plan	
		Permanent Officers	Allocated Support staff	Permanent Officers	Allocated Support staff
Lake District (Paula Allen)	high	5.0	1.0 Technician 1.0 Administrator	Planning Team will also review Management Plan	-
New Forest (Lindsay Cornish)	currently high	4.0	-	1.0	-
North York Moors (Sarah Housden)	medium/high	3.3	0.5 Transport policy	Planning Team will also review Management Plan	-
Pembrokeshire (Ifor Jones)	high	2.8	-	1.0	-
Brecon Beacons (Richard Jenkins)	N/A	2.7	1.0 Research officer	1.0	-
Dartmoor (David Lillington)	high	2.6	0.1 Community officer	?	-
Snowdonia (Cath Ranson)	high	2.5	0.5 Projects officer 0.3 Technician 0.6 Research 0.2 Community officer	1.5	0.2 Research 0.3 Technician 0.2 Community officer
Peak District (Brian Taylor)	N/A	2.3	0.5 (being organised for a further for 12 mths plus consultancy)	0.2 (increases to 1.0 during review periods)	-

National Park Staff Resources Planning Policy and Management Plan April 2008

Cairngorms (Don McKee)	N/A	2.0	3.5 (Pln. assistant, admin and GIS)	1.0	-
Exmoor (Jo Symons)	high	2.0	1.0 Housing Policy	1.0	-
The Broads (Helen Ledger)	medium/ high	1.2	1.0 Policy Assistant	0.4	-
Yorkshire Dales (Peter Stockton)	medium	1.0	0.6 Strategy officer	1.0 (currently vacant)	0.5 (?) Sustainable Development Officer
Northumberlan d (Jo-Anne Garrick)	medium/ high	1.0	0.2 Technician	0.75	-
Loch Lomond			1.0 Trainee Planning Officer (temporary)		
			0.25 Technician		
			0.5 Consultation and monitoring officer		
			no response		

YDDF Working Groups

Housing

Members

Yvonne Peacock (Chairman)

Roger Bird

John Blackie.

Harold Brown

Ann Brooks

Will Weston

Kevin Lancaster

Graham Dalton

Officers

Peter Watson

Thomas Harland

Peter Stockton

Minerals and Waste

Members

Yvonne Peacock (Chairman)

Stephen Butcher

Allen Kirkbride

Steve Macare

Deborah Millward

Malcolm Petyt

Steve Shaw-Wright

Officers

Peter Watson

Dave Parrish

Peter Stockton

Thomas Harland

YDDF Working Groups

Housing

Terms of Reference September 2006

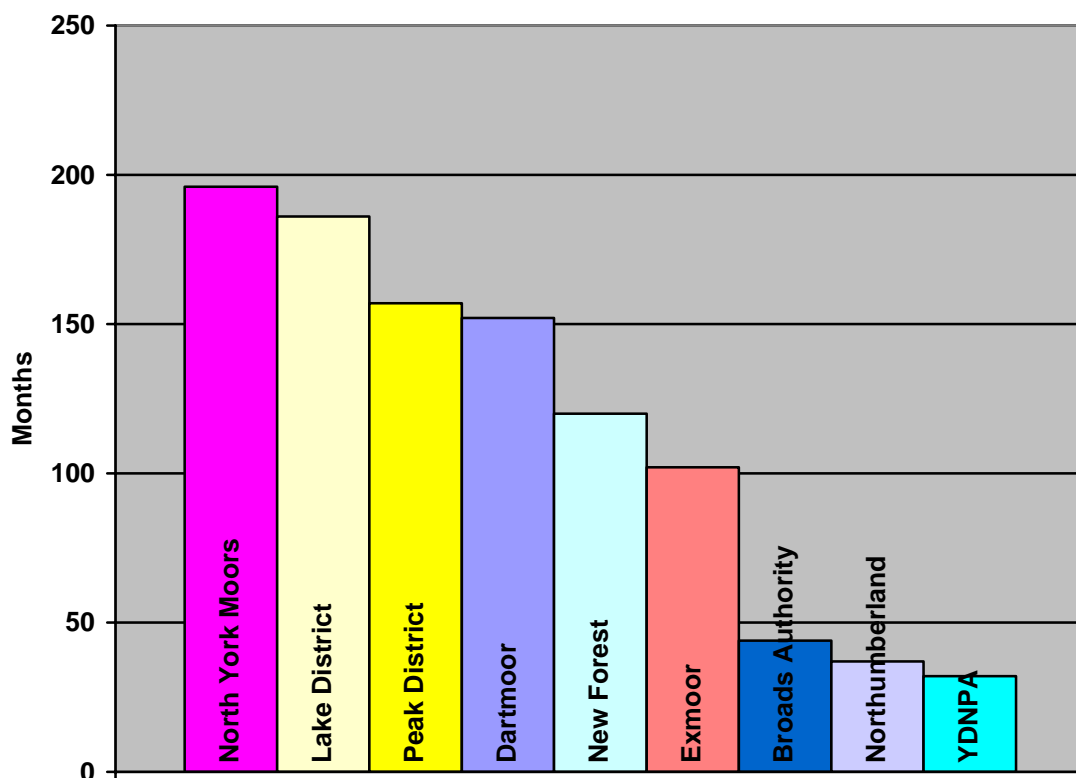
1. On behalf of the Authority the Working Group will oversee the review of the Housing Development Plan Document (as part of the Yorkshire Dales Local Development Framework).
2. The Working Group will discuss detailed issues of policy and make recommendations to the Authority for formal decision.
3. The Working Group will discuss procedural matters (such as the preferred means of public consultation and the list of consultees) and make recommendations on those matters to the Head of Planning who has delegated authority to determine them. This will include sending the Issues and Options papers out to consultation.
4. The Working Group will be a task and finish group. It will consist of 8 members and will disband once the Development Plan Document is adopted (anticipated to be late 2009 for housing).

Minerals and Waste

Terms of Reference September 2006

1. On behalf of the Authority the Working Groups will oversee the review of the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (as part of the Yorkshire Dales Local Development Framework).
2. The Working Group will discuss detailed issues of policy and make recommendations to the Authority for formal decision.
3. The Working Group will discuss procedural matters (such as the preferred means of public consultation and the list of consultees) and make recommendations on those matters to the Head of Planning who has delegated authority to determine them. This will include sending the Issues and Options papers out to consultation.
4. The Working Group will be a task and finish group. It will consist of 7 members and will disband once the Development Plan Document is adopted (anticipated to be late 2008 for minerals and waste).

Estimated LDF planning officer time to January 2008



Officer time

This table gives a very crude estimate of the approximate amount of officer time spent to date on each national park local development framework.

It has been very simply estimated by multiplying full time planning policy posts by the number of months each Authority state they have been working on their LDFs. It should be noted that some NPAs began work on their LDFs prior to enactment in 2004 whilst others have only started within the last two years. It does not take into account other non LDF work carried out by officers, staff vacancies or non policy staff time spent on LDFs.

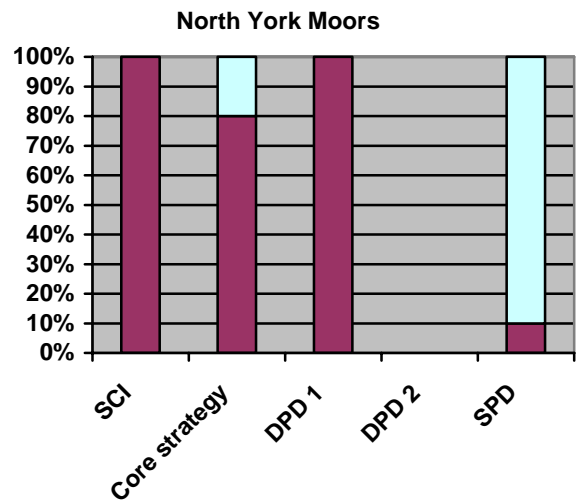
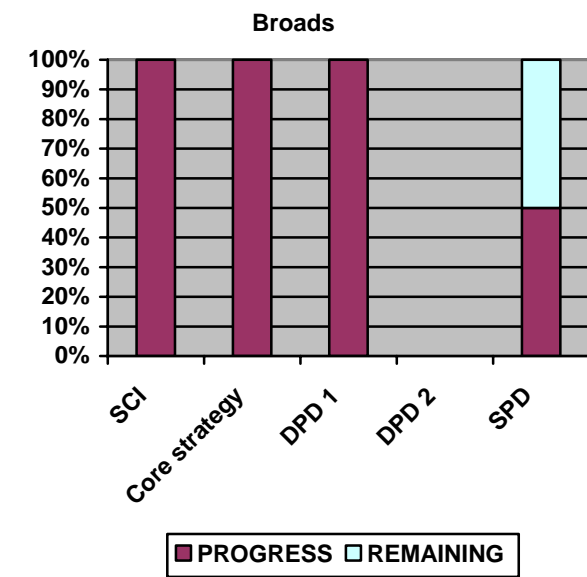
Total officer time can be directly equated to staffing costs, not to other budget headings such as consultancy, advertising, public consultation or printing.

Progress

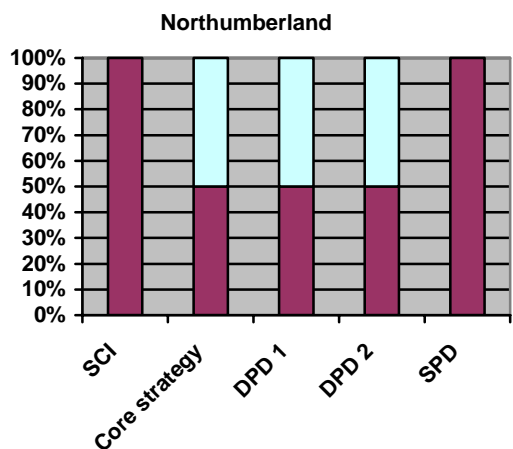
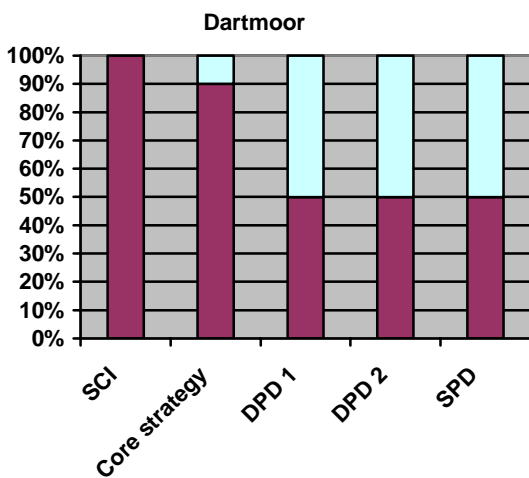
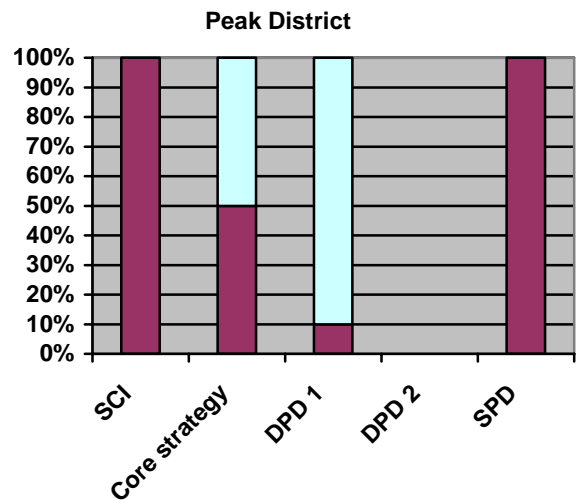
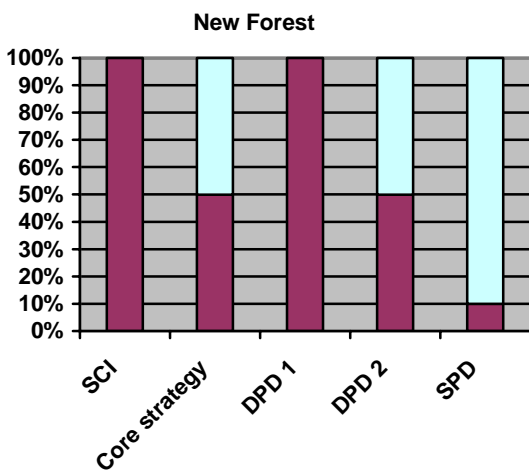
The following tables give an indication of progress to date against each component of the LDF. It will be seen that the Yorkshire Dales is the furthest behind. However in terms of the amount of officer time spent so far this is perhaps logical. On the evidence available it would seem that the Broads National Park has delivered the best value for money of all.

LDF Progress at January 2008

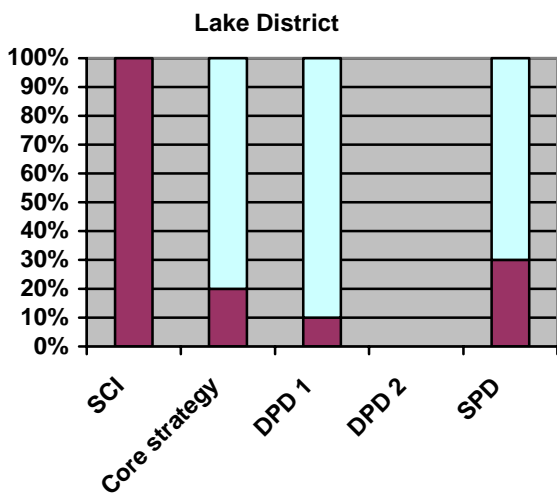
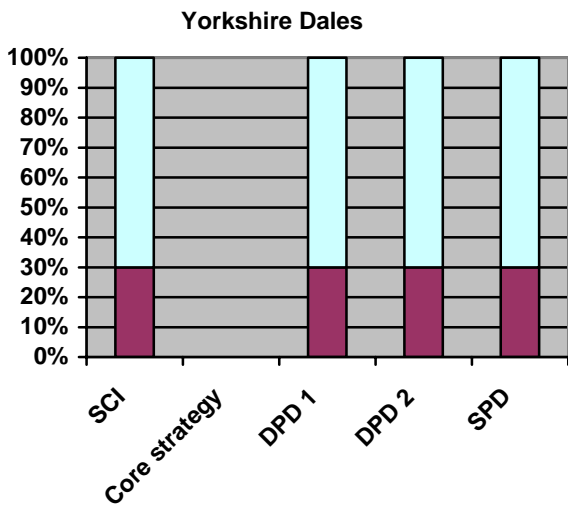
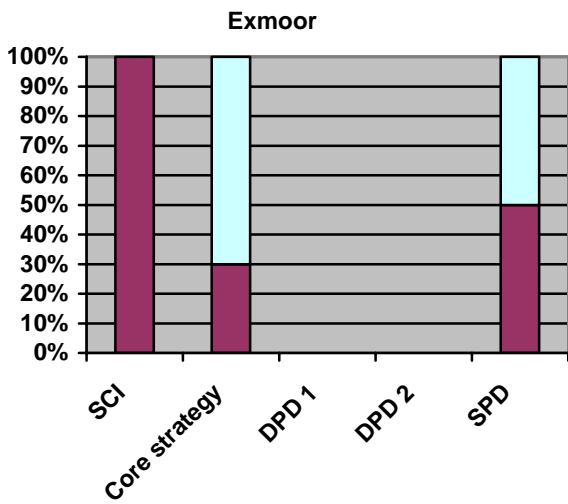
(Approximate rank order)



■ PROGRESS □ REMAINING



LDF Progress at January 2008 (Approximate rank order)



Corporate priorities 2007/08

Priority programmes	Programmes where we will maintain a good level of service and/or make steady improvements		Programmes where progress will be limited and/or dependent on external funding	
Biodiversity	Archaeology	Building conservation	'Access for all'	Branding
Development control	Enforcement	Communications	Cultural Heritage	Car parks
Farm conservation	Outreach	Countryside skills	Geodiversity	Events
Green lanes	Recreational activities	Definitive Map	Historic Environment Record	National Park Management Plan
'Limestone Country' project	Sustainable tourism support	Education	Landscape policy and advice	Pennine Bridleway
Rights of way	Trees and woodlands	Planning policy	National Park Centres	Public transport
Sustainable Development Fund	Volunteers	State of the Park	Open Access	Retail
Web-based services	YDMT	Toilets	Park Information Points	Traffic management

