



South Lakeland District Council

South Lakeland Core Strategy Preferred Options Report

Role

- Options generation and appraisal
- Leading on drafting the preferred options report
- Decision making responsibility regarding the content and structure of the report
- Providing regular feedback to the policy manager, signposting any potential issues in a timely manner
- Project management – ensuring that the report was finalised in accordance with the council's timetable.



Background

The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act states that every local planning authority must produce a Core Strategy. Advice from within the planning profession states that this should include an overall vision which sets out how the district and the places within it should develop, strategic objectives for the area focusing on the key issues to be addressed, a delivery strategy for achieving these objectives and clear arrangements for managing and monitoring the delivery of the strategy. The preferred options stage is a crucial element in the process of developing a Core Strategy, ensuring full public consultation in considering the different options for the strategy.

Urban Vision has been employed by South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) to work on the production of the Core Strategy preferred options report.

The challenge

SLDC have challenging timescales for the production of the Core Strategy preferred options report, foreshadowed in the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which when married with a difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified planners has led to significant challenges in delivering the work in a timely manner. The Planning Policy Manager has decided to seek external support to lead on the drafting of the report.

The solution

Urban Vision are now leading on the project and responsible for writing the draft of the document, and therefore making decisions regarding its content and structure with the work overseen by the Planning Policy Manager.

The results

The preferred options document has been completed and approved by local members for public consultation. Alongside the Sustainability Appraisal, it will be available for comment up until the end of May 2008.