

HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL PATHFINDER
Monday, 14th December, 2009

Present:- Councillor Akhtar (in the Chair); Councillors Kaye and Lakin.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dodson, Falvey, Goulty, Rushforth and Smith.

23. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the Council)).

24. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

Agreed:- The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September, 2009, be approved as a true record.

25. ADF CHAIRS

Members noted the ADF Chairs' reports which highlighted:-

Rawmarsh and Parkgate

Goodwin Avenue
Mahon Avenue
Clarence Hotel
Improvements to Gateway Corridor A633
Parkgate Village Project
Regeneration of Service Centre/ New Homes
Better Public Spaces

Rotherham East

Eldon Road
Longfellow Drive
Dalton and East Herringthorpe Development Framework
Eastwood Masterplan
Remodelling – Demonstrator Project
Doncaster Road, East Dene
Chesterhill Avenue, Dalton

Wath and Swinton

The Dearne Valley Vision
Almond Place
White Bear Estate
Albany Road, Kilnhurst
Highfield Road
Rookery Road
Brameld Road
Cliffe Bank
Swinton Gateway/ Green Linkages
Brampton Bierlow/ Knolbeck Lane
Thomas Street

Rotherham West

Henley Rise ECO Homes
Canklow Woods
Fernbank Development
Bennett Street Development
Munsdale
Castle Avenue/ Warden Street/ Canklow Road
St. Johns Green Study
West Central Sustainable Action Plan
Gateway Improvements
Public Art Feature

Town Centre

Nos. 15-21 Moorgate Road
Hollowgate
Doncaster Gate
Wellgate
Westgate Demonstrator

Dinnington

Masterplanning
Leicester Road
Monksbridge Phase 1
Victoria Street
The Crescent
St. Joseph's Court
Relocation of Medieval Cross
Private Sector Housing Enforcement
Dinnington Landlords' Forum
Monksbridge Terrace
Doe Quarry and Silverdales

Maltby

China Town Street Scene Improvements

Abbey Reach Garden Scheme
Model Village Parking Scheme
Tarrans Redevelopment
Private Sector Housing Enforcement

Discussion ensued on the reports with issues raised regarding the tenants at Bellows Road and the commercial premises on Oldgate Lane, Thrybergh.

(Councillor Lakin declared a personal interest in the above item)

26. STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS UPDATE

Melvyn Clayton, Development Surveyor, submitted an update report with regard to progress made with specific land and property assets identified for potential acquisition.

He reported verbally that the Council had now acquired the Bellows Road development and was still in talks with the owner of Job Lot. Officers had been out to see the tenants to dispel many of the rumours circulating with meetings set up for the New Year to discuss their requirements to take their businesses forward.

The Compulsory Purchase Order was still progressing and would be confirmed in the next 4-6 weeks.

Discussions were taking place with the developer partner with regard to the new development.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

27. HMR FINANCIAL UPDATE

Joel Gouget, Finance Manager, Neighbourhood Investment Team, gave an overview of information relating to the financial monitoring of the HMR Pathfinder Programme.

Spend was progressing extremely well and was closing to £10M spend on a Programme of £10.4M. It was predicted that by the end of the financial year spend would stand at £11.5M.

Discussions were taking place with TSY with regard to the signing off of funding which had been delayed due to some technicalities. Work was also progressing on the spend programme for the Growth Programme.

Agreed:- That the information be noted.

28. TSY BOARD

The TSY Board had met on 13th November, 2009, where the following had been discussed:-

- Programme update of all 4 authorities
- Further work on the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers within South Yorkshire
- Scoping piece of work done on mortgage assessment and options being explore with regard to offering support to individual home owners to access mortgages
- Delivering Design Quality Agenda – possibility of skills training to be launched in 2010 for Members and officers across South Yorkshire
- Condition of present housing market
- Future role and importance of the sub-regional approach

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

29. HCA SINGLE CONVERSATION UPDATE

Tom Bell, Neighbourhood Investment Manager, gave a further update on the above highlighting:-

- A series of business meetings would commence in the New Year
 - at the end of the 6 month process there would hopefully be agreement on a Local Investment Plan for Rotherham
- Sheffield, Hull and Leeds had already started the process
- A meeting with the Homes and Communities Agency in January to start learning the lessons
- The Plan would not have any legal standing at the end of the 6 months as there would not be agreement at national level on the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2011/ 12 until some time later
- Very likely will have less resources that currently had
- Starting to look at scenarios of having less resources within EDS, Neighbourhoods Renewal Programme and Neighbourhood Investment
- Would look to prioritise projects, complete what was already started with the resources available and develop a series of themes and strategies for prioritising investments as they went forward which would be brought together in a refreshed Housing Strategy
- A series of workshops to be held with regard to the draft Housing Strategy and rationale behind the vision and themes
- There would be a consultation period involving the voluntary and

community sector

- Hope to have sign off of Strategy and launch in June followed by complete Single Conversation Local Investment Plan with Homes and Communities Agency

All the above impacted on the work of the ADF Steering Groups. A series of documents needed to be considered by the Groups to articulate the overall Strategy for Rotherham.

It was hoped to make a business case at a local level in the communities where investment was required in the future. There would be a Local Investment Plan at local level that would feed into Rotherham's Local Investment Plan.

It was proposed that officers would attend ADF Steering Groups meetings and set out what it was believed to be emerging through the Groups. They then needed to discuss various scenarios of budget cuts as to what their priorities would be. There had to be a clear picture of what the Groups would be prepared to lose if the funding was not available.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

30. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that the non-traditional owner-occupier property owners on Foljambe Drive had still not had any contact from Anchor Housing.

Agreed:- That this matter be resolved as soon as possible.

31. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting be held on Monday, 29th March, 2010 at 2.00 p.m.