



constitution and delegation scheme (Appendix 1) and proposed constitution and terms of reference (Appendix 2).

Those present discussed the primary purpose of the Steering Group and noted changes in Government Guidance and Regulations since the establishment of the Group.

It was pointed out that the Planning Advisory Service had recognised the value of the Steering Group, together with corporate support and adequate resources, as essential pre-requisites to the successful delivery of the LDF.

Ken MacDonald, Solicitor, pointed out that Cabinet had expressed the desire to see a review of the operation and constitution of this Group. The Delegation Scheme for the Director of Planning was also being reviewed as part of the annual review of the Council's Constitution. It was hoped that together with the current review of the LDFSG's constitution and terms of reference would lead to adoption of the respective revised proposals following the "full" Council meeting on 21 May, 2010. It was pointed out that the revised constitution and terms of reference for this Group would reflect the recent changes outlined above, and continue to facilitate the timely delivery of the Core Strategy and Allocations DPD. It was confirmed that the ultimate decision making remained with Cabinet and with recommendation(s) to Council.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed revisions to the Local Development Framework Members' Steering Group Constitution and Terms of Reference, as now detailed in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

(2) That Cabinet be asked to recommend to Council adoption of the revised LDF Members' Steering Group Constitution and Terms of Reference.

## **5. EMPLOYMENT LAND REVIEW - UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by David Edwards, Area and Environmental Planning Team Leader, relating to an update of the 2007 Employment Land Review.

He explained that the review had been undertaken to form part of the evidence base which will support and inform preparation of the Local Development Framework, and inform planning decisions. The main purposes of the review were:-

- (i) assess the current position
- (ii) assess future Employment Land required to meet projected employment levels
- (iii) consider future allocations

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Reference was made to the impact of the recession and the take up of allocated development sites and major windfalls. It was reported that it was anticipated that around 250 hectares of employment land may be required to meet the needs of the LDF period to 2027 and 5 hectares of land may be required to accommodate forecast office space requirements.

It was pointed out that the Employment Land Review did not commit the Council to any future uses and site recommendations would need further consideration as part of preparing the LDF Final Draft Core Strategy and the Site Allocations Document. Currently details of individual sites were not available as these would be part of the consultation process. It was, however, pointed out that there was no specific requirement to consult on this particular part of the LDF but once consulted upon the Employment Land Review would form part of the evidence base for the LDF.

The Steering Group was advised of an anticipated delay in the consultation period due to work pressures within the Forward Planning Section. Therefore the updated Employment Land Review would be consulted on mid year.

Members present commented on:-

- the need to begin to identify specific sites and map them
- the need to explain why Greenfield sites would be needed for employment land
- the reasons for the review
- the technical nature of the documents
- the consultation strategy and proposed timescale
- the current economic position and house building sector
- the difficulty in trying to forecast to 2020 and beyond
- the Regional Spatial Strategy housing and employment land targets and Growth Point and how realistic was it that the Council could meet the trajectory
- the need for better community/estate design

Resolved:- (1) That the Steering Group notes this report and the contents of the Employment Land Review Update.

(2) That the consultation strategy for the Employment Land Review Update be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

(3) That a further report be submitted to the June meeting of the Steering Group.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The following items were raised:-

- (i) South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide – Better Places to

Live in South Yorkshire 2001

Bronwen Peace, Planning Services Manager, reported that Transform South Yorkshire (TSY) had issued a draft update of this guide and was seeking to move forward to consultation. It was pointed out that this was a technical document covering standards for residential design, sustainability, access etc. The purpose of the Guide was so that developers and local authority officers could assess planning applications and it would also help inform LDF policy making.

It was reported that TSY would make the consultation arrangements and provide materials, therefore Rotherham's role would be to act as facilitator.

Resolved:- That Rotherham act as facilitator for the consultation process in respect of this Design Guide subject to no significant costs being incurred.

(ii) Car Parking Standards

David Edwards, Area and Environmental Planning Team Leader, reported that since the Transportation Section had issued interim Parking Standards in 2002, both PPG 13 and the Regional Spatial Strategy had lead to amended Standards. It was therefore suggested that a Supplementary Planning Document be issued, and approval was sought to prepare and consult on the revised local Standards.

The consultation draft would be submitted to a future meeting of the Steering Group for consideration.

Members present commented on:-

- reducing the number of car parking spaces
- strategies to encourage other modes of transport
- overspill into adjacent streets at new Council developments
- the role of car parking in regeneration of town centres

(iii) Joint Waste Plan

David Edwards, Area and Environmental Planning Team Leader, referred to Minute No 10 of the meeting of the Steering Group held on 18th September, 2009, in respect of the above.

He explained that the proposed consultation had not yet taken place. He confirmed that there had been no substantial changes to the document and it was now proposed to consult mid year 2010 on this document.

Ken Macdonald explained that this was a significant Development Plan Document and would come forward for an Examination in Public in due course. It was important that the Council complied with the regulations

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and consultation requirements of the LDF process.

The Steering Group and Cabinet notes the proposed consultation.

**7. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Steering Group be held on FRIDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2010 at 10 a.m., Bailey House.