

1 ROTHERHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP - 18/02/11

ROTHERHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP Friday, 18th February, 2011

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor McNeely), Councillors Dodson, Doyle, Jack, R. S. Russell, Whelbourn, Whysall and Wyatt.

together with:-

Ken MacDonald
Bronwen Peace
Ryan Shepherd

Solicitor
Planning Manager
Senior Planner

1. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from the following members of the Steering Group and officers:-

Councillor J. Austen	Chair, Democratic Scrutiny Panel – member of Steering Group
Councillor D. Pickering	Chair, Planning Board
Councillor A. Russell	Chair, Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel
Councillor S. Walker	Senior Adviser, Regeneration & Environment

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2010

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th December, 2010.

Resolved:- That, with the addition of The Mayor (Councillor McNeely) in attendance, the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The following issues, from the previous minutes, were raised:-

Houses in Multiple Occupation

The issue of the requested briefing note for all Members and the three local MPs was to be followed up as a matter of priority.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

Ken MacDonald, Solicitor, reported that the position regarding the status of the Regional Strategy (RS) had once again been challenged, by way of a second judicial review hearing, on 17th January, 2011 (Cala Homes case). The outcome of this challenge was that the Government's clear intention to bring forward legislation to withdraw the RS as soon as possible (Localism Bill) was a material consideration in the determination of planning applications (as set out

in the Secretary of State's letter dated 10th November, 2010).

It follows that if regard was to be had to the development plan for the purpose of any determination to be made under the planning Acts, the determination must be made in accordance with the plan (which includes RS), unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The weight to be given to such policies must however, be tempered by the fact that the Government intended to withdraw RS as soon as practicable.

4. SETTLEMENT AND GROWTH STRATEGY FOR ROTHERHAM BOROUGH

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Planning Manager and the Senior Planning Officer, proposing a Settlement and Growth Strategy that would form the bedrock of the Core Strategy. This would assist in the selection of sites for future development as work progressed on preparing the Sites and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD).

The following key issues had been considered in preparing the settlement and growth strategy for the Borough:-

- to clearly establish the settlement hierarchy for the borough and to identify the principal settlements for growth in the future.
- to determine how a settlement identified for growth will change in the future
- to spatially identify potential development sites including broad allocations (Urban Extensions) to meet the needs of the Borough.
- to set an appropriate local housing target

It was explained that the proposed settlement and growth strategy for the Borough was at the heart of the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy would be presented to Members later in 2011. The proposed settlement hierarchy reflected the status of the centres / settlement groupings as they were and also their potential future role. It also reflected the availability of existing facilities and services and assessed whether growth could potentially be supported in the settlement in the future.

The Settlement and Growth Strategy would be the over arching policy to guide future development.

It was noted that table 1 only dealt with the main settlement groupings and, therefore, the 'proportionate size of settlement' column did not include existing population in 'other villages'. The full details were in the '% of total dwellings' column of the table in Appendix 1 of the report submitted which showed that the population of 'other villages' accounted for 5%. It was also noted that the figures had been rounded the nearest whole percentage.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed Settlement and Growth Strategy for the Borough be supported, for inclusion within the final draft of the Core Strategy for consultation purposes during summer 2011.

(2) That a local target for Rotherham of 850 homes per annum be supported for consultation as part of the final draft Core Strategy.

3 ROTHERHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP - 18/02/11

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to report.

6. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Local Development Framework Members' Steering Group be held on Friday, 18th March, 2011 at 10.00 a.m. – Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.