

1 ROTHERHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP - 16/09/11

ROTHERHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP Friday, 16th September, 2011

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Dodson, Jack, McNeely, Pickering, Whelbourn, Whysall and Wyatt.

together with:-

Andy Duncan	Principal Officer
David Edwards	Principal Officer
Bronwen Knight	Manager
Ryan Shepherd	Senior Planner
Helen Sleigh	Senior Planner

1. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Akhtar	Deputy Leader
Councillor S. Walker	Senior Adviser, Town Centres, Economic Growth & Prosperity

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22ND JUNE, 2011

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd June, 2011.

Resolved:- That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Senior Planner spoke to the submitted report which summarised the draft National Planning Policy Framework which the Government has published for consultation.

Key points of the document were highlighted together with more detailed explanations of the following:-

- presumption in favour of sustainable development
- plan making
- Neighbourhood planning
- Development management
- Planning policy guidance

The overall messages in streamlining guidance meant:-

- (i) less detail presented than in current guidance
- (ii) less detail and guidance on applying policy approaches

Four potential implications for the preparation of the LDF were detailed in the submitted report.

It was emphasised that it was important to have a robust plan otherwise there was the risk that the Government would dictate. It was noted that additional work may be required to ensure that any submitted LDF documents comply with the new guidance as if submitted documents were not 'compliant' with new guidance then they may be found unsound at examination.

Members present commented on:-

- Implications of the Planning Inspector overturning applications
- Town centre office developments and possible change of use
- Localisation of business rates
- Consultation within the Council
- Difficulties in keeping up with all the documentation coming out of central Government
- The Localism Bill and the RSS targets

Resolved:- That the contents of the report be noted.

5. LDF CONSULTATION

The Senior Planner reported on the LDF consultation process with reference to the following:-

- Stakeholder seminar:- involving representatives from the Environment Agency, Natural England, CPRE, key individuals and developers
- 20 Drop-in sessions
- Leaflets, posters, press releases, fact sheets, FAQ's, loan of CD's, information in libraries and on the internet
- 12 workshops with communities of interest
- Presentation to the Parish Network
- Cost of the consultation
- 1 : 1 opportunities for discussion

Consultation responses:-

- Between 1300 - 1500 people attended drop-in sessions

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- 2000 individual comments received
- 3000 petitions and standard letters received
- 88% object

Members present commented on:-

- The housing waiting list and % of affordable housing
- Clarity of maps and annotation
- Availability of legal advice, expertise and knowledge
- Breakdown of the actual number of responses for each area
- Assistance given to Ward Councillors by officers

6. INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN

The Principal Officer reported on a range of issues coming out of the consultation re: infrastructure.

Under the new guidance infrastructure needs and costs would have to be assessed and this would include how the infrastructure would be phased with development in 5 year tranches. Reference would also need to be made to funding sources and who will deliver. This would have implications for the Community Infrastructure Levy.

It was reported that consultants had been commissioned, funded from New Homes Fund, to carry out the study which would look at the existing capacity and identify gaps and provide a delivery plan for the LDF to submit with the Core Strategy.

7. RENEWABLE ENERGY AND LOW CARBON STUDY

The Principal Officer reported on the commissioning of consultants to carry out a low carbon/climate change study, part funded by the LGYH. The study would be asked to identify resources for renewable energy and provide a mechanism to promote renewable energy and information about viability and information for the Community Infrastructure Levy. The study would form part of the evidence base of the LDF.

A workshop was being held on 30th September at the Town Hall, lead by the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

Members commented on:-

- Wind energy
- Bio-mass
- Waterways strategy and water power
- Solar farms
- Geo-thermal heat

Resolved:- That a further report be submitted to the next meeting.

8. BASSINGTHORPE FARM MASTERPLANNING

The Senior Planner reported on the commencement of discussions for the master planning of the Bassingthorpe Farm urban extension with the landlord.

It was thought that Planning Aid, Rother Fed and the Area Assembly Team could help the community to form a small working party to begin awareness raising, introduce the concept and provide an overview of the timeframe involved.

Reference was made to:-

- Local opposition and greenbelt campaigners
- Local expectations
- The need for a specialist officer team
- The greenbelt review
- Links to the Dearne Valley Eco Vision
- Identification of opportunities and objectives for the site, along with constraints
- The need to engage with supporters and objectors
- Proximity of landfill site

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items of business.

10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Local Development Framework Steering Group be held on Friday, 28th October, 2011 at 10.00 a.m. at the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.