

**ROTHERHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP
Friday, 20th April, 2012**

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

28. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Jack, Pickering, Rushforth and R. Russell.

29. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15TH MARCH, 2012

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting.

Agreed:- That the minutes be approved as a correct record with the addition of Councillor McNeely's apologies.

30. PUBLICATION CORE STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Ryan Shepherd, Senior Planning Officer, submitted a report outlining the broad approach and content of the above Strategy document. The issuing of the publication version was to allow for formal representations to be made in connection with issues of soundness and legal compliance only.

The points were highlighted:-

- Document title changed from the Local Development Framework in line with the changes introduced through the National Planning Policy Framework
- The vision for the future of Rotherham Borough was set out in the Strategy
- Underpinned by 17 objectives addressing the key issues facing Rotherham over the next 15 years
- Set out the level of future growth and its broad distribution
- Consultation on the formal protection of the Plan – not for comment on the content
- Subject to approval by Cabinet, published for statutory consultation in July, 2012 with submission to Government towards the end of 2012
- Independent examination expected to take place early in 2013 with a view to adoption by July, 2013

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised:-

- o Specific site plans would sit within the Sites and Policies Document. There was full commitment to carry out consultation on the sites
- o New housing development targets
- o Public Rights of Way
- o Definition of the town centre

Agreed:- (1) That the Publication Core Strategy be supported.

{2} That the Cabinet be asked to approve the document for public consultation.

31. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF PUBLICATION CORE STRATEGY

Helen Sleight, Senior Planner, Forward Planning, verbally reported on the above. The Integrated Impact Assessment looked at the sustainability of the Core Strategy as well as including the Health Assessment and Health Inequalities Assessment.

The document had been submitted to the consultants for an evaluation which would be with the Council the following week. However, they had given a verbal update highlighting the following:-

- the general thrust of the Core Strategy not changed
- the emerging Public Health agenda was included but not moving at the same pace as the Core Strategy
- a significant change was the emergence of the National Planning and Policy Framework and its approach to the use of brownfield land. There would now be changed monitoring requirements
- Life Time Homes and homes for the elderly

The update was on track for completion and would be out for the statutory period of consultation. The document would then be submitted to the Secretary of State later in the year.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

32. ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUBLICATION OF CORE STRATEGY

Neil Rainsforth, Senior Research and Spatial Analysis Officer, outlined the arrangements for the "publication" consultation on the Core Strategy.

Due to the formal nature of this stage of consultation, only representations received relating to issues of legal compliance or soundness could be considered. Responses must, therefore, be received via the Council's Online Consultation Portal or on a standard response form. A full explanation of legal compliance and soundness would be available to accompany the standard response form. Due to the formal nature of the consultation, public drop-in sessions would not be held.

A statutory notice would be placed in newspapers covering the whole Borough advising of the dates of the 6 weeks consultation period. All consultees who had made representations on previous LDF consultation documents and indicated that they wished to be kept informed would be advised of the latest consultation.

Agreed:- {1} That the arrangements being made for the formal "publication" consultation on the Core Strategy be noted.

{2} That it be noted that only formal representations regarding issues of legal compliance and soundness could be considered at this stage.

33. INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY STUDY

David Edwards, Area & Environmental Planning Team Leader, gave a powerpoint presentation on the above highlighting the following:-

- Required under NPPF to demonstrate sound infrastructure planning for Core Strategy
- Types of Infrastructure assessed
 - Primary – needed to function as part of wider community
 - Secondary – for direct needs of new residents of development
- For each infrastructure type:-
 - What was the capacity or context shaping the infrastructure?
 - What were the infrastructure requirements generated by future growth?
 - When was infrastructure needed and who would provide it?
 - What were the costs?
 - How could new infrastructure be funded?
 - What were the priorities?
 - Were there any issues, dependencies and barriers to growth?
- Study Findings
 - Requirements, costs and funding

Once the Local Plan was adopted, it had to be updated and monitored. Part of its examination would be demonstration that it was deliverable.

Agreed;- That the report be noted.

34. ARCHAEOLOGY STUDY

David Edwards, Area & Environmental Planning Team Leader, presented a report on the completed Archaeology Scoping Study carried out of Local Development Framework preferred Site Allocations. The Study would form part of the evidence base for preparing the Local Development Framework and inform planning requirements for future development sites.

The scoping study was produced by consultants using recognised established data sources. The South Yorkshire Archaeology Service provided technical expertise in overseeing the project and approved all of the site assessments. It set out to establish the known or expected archaeological potential of the sites identified as preferred for future development within the emerging LDF. The existing archaeological and historic environment character data had been reviewed for all of the proposed preferred sites for new housing and employment.

The Study had identified:-

- 3 (2%) sites with major archaeological objections to development
- 17 (11%) sites with potential objections to development
- 72 (46%) sites with uncertain objections to development

65 (41%) sites with little or no objection to development.

Agreed;- That the report be noted.

35. SY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

Helen Sleight, Senior Planner, Forward Planning, presented a report on the above Infrastructure Strategy which proposed a 20 year vision for improving the sub-region's network of key green infrastructure together with proposals for preparing a detailed delivery plan up to 2015.

Transform South Yorkshire commissioned a Green Infrastructure Strategy in 2009 covering the sub-region. The second phase of the Strategy was timetabled to last from April, 2011 to March, 2016 during which a programme for its delivery would be developed. It envisaged a vital, productive and attractive green infrastructure network which had the capacity and strength to link South Yorkshire's communities, supporting sustainable change within a resilient and biodiverse ecological network whilst helping to deliver social cohesion.

A master plan had been prepared for the sub-region identifying initiative areas which may be restored or improved and possible project opportunity "hot spots". Potential actions for identified initiative areas were listed within the Strategy which would form the foundation of the delivery plan in Phase 2 and the basis of interventions as funding and capacity arose.

The adoption of the South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy would enable the full integration of sub-regional green infrastructure policy into the Local Development Framework.

Agreed:- (1) That the integration and implementation of the South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy into the Planning Framework be supported.

(2) That the report be referred to Cabinet for approval.

36. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Andy Duncan, Strategic Policy Team Leader, presented an update to the Local Development Scheme to reflect the Localism Act 2011 and the new National Planning Policy Framework published March, 2012.

The Scheme was last formally revised in March, 2007. Further updated had been put on hold pending clarification of the requirements of the Localism Act and National Planning Policy Framework. At future examinations, 1 of the legal compliance checks that a Planning Inspector would carry out was that Development Plan Documents had been produced in conformity with the Local Development Scheme. It was important, therefore, that the Scheme was revised and updated for the Core Strategy's planned submission.

The revised Local Development Scheme was attached at Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

Agreed:- (1) That the revised and updated Local Development Scheme be endorsed.

(2) That the report be referred to Cabinet for approval.

37. NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

Andy Duncan, Strategic Policy Team Leader, submitted an overview of the changes between the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the final version.

The NPPF aimed to reduce the planning barriers to growth whilst at the same time involving people more in planning decision in their local area and had a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The draft NPPF had attracted criticism which the Government had taken account of in the revised version. The report set out the main changes in the final document.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

38. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

David Edwards, Area and Environmental Planning Team Leader, gave a verbal report on a review of the Green Belt that had been undertaken as a matter of urgency following legal advice.

It had been considered that the issue had been incorporated into the Local Development Framework Site Surveys but Simon Bird QC had advised that Green Belt Purposes set out in the NPPF had not been explicitly assessed.

Methodology for the assessment had been produced in house, assisted by the Planning Advisory Service, for a 3 week limited consultation. The full review report would accompany the Core Strategy publication/submission.

Agreed:- That the issue be covered in the Core Strategy report to be submitted to Cabinet.

39. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING.

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Rotherham Local Development Framework be held on Friday, 15th June, 2012, at 10.00 a.m.