

ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN STEERING GROUP
Thursday, 13th December, 2012

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Dodson, Godfrey, R. S. Russell and Whelbourn.

together with:- Bronwen Knight, Andy Duncan and Neil Rainsforth (Planning Service), Ann Todd (Communications Team) and Sumera Shabir (Legal Service)

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor Pickering) and from Councillor Clark

52. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9TH NOVEMBER, 2012

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group, held on 9th November, 2012.

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

53. MATTERS ARISING

With reference to Minute No. 48 of the meeting held on 9th November, 2012 [Legal Advice on the Core Strategy], Members noted that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had announced the revocation of the first regional strategy (the East of England RSS). It was anticipated that the revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber RSS would follow soon.

54. RETAIL AND TOWN CENTRE ISSUES - ADVICE RECEIVED

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Planning Policy Manager stating that, in response to representations received to the Publication Core Strategy, the Council commissioned consultants to provide further advice on retail and town centre policy matters. The full text of the advice received from retail consultant Dr. Richard Doidge was included as an appendix to the report.

The advice concerns the following key issues:-

- : the overall amount of retail floorspace to be planned for
- : the thresholds adopted for requirement of impact tests
- : the use of drive time thresholds for impact tests
- : minor policy wording amendments

Discussion took place on the definition and precise area of the Rotherham town centre and its retail area. Members asked to be informed of the definitions (and plans) of the precise boundary and limits of (i) the Rotherham town centre and (ii) the other principal towns in the Borough area: eg: Dinnington, Maltby, Rawmarsh and Wath upon Dearne. It was noted that the definitions of the town centres are contained in the Unitary Development Plan.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the advice received from the retail consultant, as now reported, be

noted.

55. LOCAL PLAN - ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2012

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Senior Research And Spatial Analysis Officer stating that, in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report to be published by the end of each December. The annual report is intended to cover progress in achieving the programme of Local Plan documents published in the Local Development Scheme together with the monitoring of performance in implementing the policies supporting Rotherham's strategy for spatial development, as well as the findings of Sustainability Appraisal monitoring.

Annual Monitoring Reports are required to cover the financial year preceding December publication; this eighth annual report covers the period 1st April, 2011 to 31st March, 2012. It sets out a monitoring framework which is evolving incrementally as the first round of planning documents and policies are prepared and additional ones are brought forward in the future. Accordingly, this eighth annual report builds on some of the initial broad principles to guide the monitoring of the developing Local Plan as well as a selection of performance indicators based on data that is most readily available.

There have been some significant changes from earlier years' annual reports, as the requirement of reporting on regional and national indicators have been changed, reduced or scrapped completely (although a few core indicators do remain). The indicators are now aligned with local priorities and the core policies of the Publication Core Strategy under the seven broad themes of 'Delivering Development in Sustainable Locations', 'Creating Mixed and Attractive Places to Live', 'Supporting a Dynamic Economy', 'Movement and Accessibility', 'Managing the Natural and Historic Environment', 'Creating Safe and Sustainable Communities' and 'Infrastructure'. The indicators reflect the seventeen broad objectives and the thirty three core policies within the Publication Core Strategy which underpin these aims. This selection of indicators will continue to be supplemented as the Local Plan monitoring framework evolves.

Members noted that submission to HM Government is no longer required and that the draft 2012 Annual Monitoring Report is now ready for general publication. The document will be made available on the Council's Internet web site.

Members made reference to:-

: the various performance indicators;

: the building of houses, particularly affordable house in the Borough area;

: the Waverley development and delays in construction of the new highway network.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the publication of the 2012 Annual Monitoring Report be approved.

56. FOCUSED CHANGES TO ROTHERHAM'S CORE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Planning Policy Manager summarising the focused changes public consultation exercise which will take place in January and February 2013 (subject to approval by the Cabinet on 19th December, 2012). Members considered the draft focused changes consultation document, noting that many of the changes are of a minor nature.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the contents of the Core Strategy Focused Changes document be noted.

57. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group take place at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Friday, 18th January, 2013, commencing at 10.00 a.m.