

ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN STEERING GROUP
Friday, 19th April, 2013

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Clark and Godfrey.

together with:- Bronwen Knight, Andrew Duncan, Helen Sleight and Ryan Shepherd (Planning Service); Carolyn Jones (Leisure and Green Spaces) and Ann Todd (Press Office).

Apologies for absence were received from:- The Mayor (Councillor Pickering) and from Councillors Currie, Dodson, Lakin, McNeeley, G. A. Russell, Steele and Whelbourn and from Sumera Shabir (Legal Services).

**75. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22ND MARCH, 2013
(COPY ATTACHED)**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group, held on 22nd March, 2013.

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

76. ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY - SUBMISSION TO HM GOVERNMENT

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Senior Planning Officer concerning the submission of Rotherham's Local Plan Core Strategy to HM Government.

The report stated that the Core Strategy has been prepared over a number of years. Most recently the Publication Core Strategy was subject to consultation between June and August 2012. Between January and February 2013 consultation took place on a number of Focused Changes to the Core Strategy. In response the Council received 333 representations from 43 individuals, organisations or agents on behalf of others. These representations were summarised in the report and the schedule of additional proposed changes was appended to the submitted report.

Members discussed the preparation of the various documents which together constitute the Core Strategy.

Reference was made to the implications for future development within the Rotherham Borough area of the forthcoming construction of the high speed railway line.

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

(2) That the Cabinet be requested to approve the submission of Rotherham's Local Plan Core Strategy to HM Government.

77. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Planning Policy Manager containing an update to the Local Development Scheme to reflect the revised timetable for submission of the Local Plan Core Strategy to HM Government. The report stated that it is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning Act 2008 and the Localism Act 2011) that the local planning authority must prepare and maintain a local development scheme. The Local Development Scheme sets out an updated and revised project plan for the preparation of the Development Plan Documents which will comprise the Rotherham Local Plan. The Local Development Scheme is intended to: -

: set out the subject matter, geographic coverage, development plan status and inter-relationships of Local Plan documents and if any are to be prepared jointly with other local planning authorities;

: establish and reflect priorities for the Local Plan to steer associated work programming and resource allocation; and

: give a timetable and set milestones for the preparation and review of documents

The revised Local Development Scheme was appended to the submitted report.

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

(2) That the Cabinet be requested to approve the revised Local Development Scheme.

78. ROTHERHAM BIODIVERSITY OPPORTUNITY AREA GUIDANCE

Further to Minute No. 59 of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 18th January, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Ecology Development Officer concerning proposed links between the Local Plan Sites and Policies Development Plan Documents and the 2012 Rotherham Biodiversity Action Plan for the provision of guidance relating to natural environment policy areas. Members noted that:-

: the Local Plan Local Plan Sites and Policies Development Plan Documents include policy SP31 (Conserving the natural environment);

: this proposal imposes no greater burden upon prospective developers;

: an explanation of Biodiversity Opportunity Area Mapping was appended to the submitted report;

: Borough-wide biodiversity opportunity mapping refines the National Character Area boundaries using more detailed bedrock and superficial geological mapping to identify three key zones or Ecoscapes (as shown on map three, appended to the report):-

: Coal Measures Ecoscape
 : Magnesian Limestone Ecoscape
 : Riparian Ecoscape

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

(2) That the expanded Biodiversity Opportunity Area information provided in the 2012 Rotherham Biodiversity Action Plan be accepted.

(3) That this Steering Group supports the creation of links between the Local Plan Sites and Policies Development Plan Documents and the 2012 Rotherham Biodiversity Action Plan as a method of providing guidance for this policy area.

79. ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN - DRAFT SITES AND POLICIES DOCUMENT

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Senior Planner concerning the proposal to undertake further consultation from May to July, 2013 on the Local Plan Draft Sites and Policies Document and its accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment. It was noted that it is the role of the Sites and Policies Document to identify the location of new development sites to meet the Borough and settlement targets for growth set out in policy CS1 of the Core Strategy and the development management policies will guide decision-making on future planning applications.

The submitted report provided an outline of the consultation document, which will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval to consult with the communities of Rotherham and key stakeholders. Reference was also made to the contents of the Integrated Impact Assessment document, which will be included in the public consultation process. Accompanying the consultation on proposed allocation sites will be proposed new designations for:-

: Local Wildlife Sites
 : Regionally Important Geological Sites
 : Green Infrastructure Corridors
 : Conservation Areas (new areas)

Members noted that, in due course, the Sites and Policies Document will be submitted to HM Government for examination by an independently appointed planning inspector.

Discussion took place on a number of specific sites around the

Rotherham Borough area and upon the overall target for new residential housing development.

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

(2) That the Local Plan Steering Group supports the submission of the draft Sites and Policies Document to Cabinet for approval to undertake community consultation and engagement commencing during May, 2013.

80. ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN - CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Senior Planner concerning the proposal to undertake consultation on the Local Plan draft Sites and Policies Document and its accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment during the period from 20th May until 29th July 2013. The submitted report included the Consultation and Community Engagement Action Plan (as an appendix) which it is intended will be used for this Summer's consultation process.

The importance of providing extensive publicity and disseminating information for the many public drop-in sessions was emphasised.

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

(2) That the Local Plan Steering Group endorses the Consultation and Community Engagement Action Plan, as now submitted.

81. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bassingthorpe Farm – proposed development at Greasbrough

Members viewed the concept framework and plan for the proposed Bassingthorpe Farm development and noted that further consult will be taking place with local residents, the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England. A dedicated page will be included on the Borough Council's Internet web site, where the relevant documents will be available to view. The concept framework and plan will be submitted to HM Government together with the Local Plan Core Strategy.

82. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group take place at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Friday, 7th June, 2013, commencing at 10.00 a.m.