

ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN STEERING GROUP
Friday, 14th February, 2014

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Clark, Dodson, Falvey, Pickering and Whelbourn.

together with:- Andrew Duncan, Bronwen Knight, Ryan Shepherd and Helen Sleigh.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Godfrey and McNeely.

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 17TH JANUARY 2014

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 17th January, 2014.

Arising from Minute No. 20 (Sites and Policies Development Plan Document), it was noted that Todwick was in a residential area only due to the ecological issues on site.

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

24. CORE STRATEGY - CONSULTATION ON INSPECTOR'S MAIN MODIFICATIONS

Further to Minute No. 19 of the meeting held on 17th January, 2014, the Group considered an update regarding the Main Modifications, as requested by the Inspector, as part of the Examination in Public (EIP) of Rotherham's Core Strategy.

The Cabinet had approved the public consultation on the Main Modifications and the response at its meeting on 5th February, 2014 (Minute No. C81 refers). The consultation on the Inspector's Main Modifications would be for a 6 weeks period with all responses, including that of the Council, sent to the Inspector for consideration in preparing the final report.

Since the report had been prepared, the Inspector had given feedback which included renumbering of the Modifications, including some that were previously "Minor" changes, and the amended designation of Waverley as a district centre in the retail hierarchy.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Clarification being sought as to how to proceed with the backlog of housing requirements in the first 5 years of the Plan meaning a

- identification of a significant number of extra sites
- Housing Strategy Team updating the Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Inspector had indicated probability of additional hearing days based on the Modifications
- The Council would continue to argue its previous stance i.e. the lower housing target and brownfield development rather than greenfield
- How did National Policy fit with the Localism agenda?
- In view of the recent weather and flooding experienced in parts of the country should building on flood plains be disregarded?

The 6 weeks consultation period would commence on 7th March until 17th April, 2014.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a letter be sent to the Secretary of State, with copies to the 3 local Members of Parliament, highlighting the discussion that had taken place with regard to the Localism agenda and building on flood plains.

25. SITES AND POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT - UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 20 of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 17th January, 2014, the Senior Planning Officer gave a verbal update regarding the continuing preparation of Rotherham's emerging Sites and Policies Document drawing attention to the following:-

- Work was ongoing to meet the targets given by the Inspector not taking into account the backlog within the first 5 years of the Plan. Housing Planning Officers had looked at sites with developers at what was available and could be delivered within the criteria of affordability
- Sites chosen most appropriate to the existing communities so as to make the best use of existing services and structures, schools and health facilities
- Eastwood Trading Estate – cordon sanitaire
- The proposed sites would be submitted to the next meeting

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

26. LOCAL PLAN STEERING GROUP - PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consideration was given to proposed revisions to the Steering Group's Constitution and Terms of Reference to ensure they were fit for purpose, engagement of Ward Members in consultation and updating of the wording due to recent planning reform and revised regulations governing

the preparation, consultation, examination and adoption of Local Plan documents.

Discussion ensued on the proposed revisions with the following comments made:-

- The current practice worked well
- Need to increase attendance
- Democratic process
- How should the next round of consultation take place

Agreed:- (1) That discussions take place with the Director of Legal and democratic Services with regard to the democratic process.

(2) That, following (1) above, the revised Terms of Reference be circulated to the Steering Group.

27. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to report.

28. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group take place at the Town Hall, Rotherham, on Friday, 14th March, 2014, commencing at 10.00 a.m.