

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

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

together with:- Bronwen Knight, Andrew Duncan, Neil Rainsforth and Ryan Shepherd (Planning Service) and Ann Todd (Communications Office).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dodson, Godfrey, Lakin, Pickering, G. A. Russell and R. S. Russell.

29. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2014

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group, held on 14th February, 2014.

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

30. MATTERS ARISING

With regard to Minute No. 26 of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 14th February, 2014, discussion took place on:-

(a) the arrangements for ensuring that Ward Members are informed of issues and developments affecting the areas they represent; and

(b) membership of and representation on the Local Plan Steering Group.

31. CORE STRATEGY - DRAFT RESPONSE TO INSPECTOR'S MAIN MODIFICATIONS

Further to Minute No. 24 of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 14th February, 2014, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Planning Officer, providing an update on the draft response to the consultation on Main Modifications as part of the Examination in Public of Rotherham's Local Plan Core Strategy.

Specific reference was made to:-

: MM3 : the overall housing requirement and the requirement for the housing backlog to be dealt with during the first five years of the new Local Plan; the Council's response was that the backlog should be dealt with during the whole life of the Local Plan;

: use of percentage distribution of new housing across the whole Borough area;

: MM4 (Policy CS3) : objecting to the removal of phasing of new development;

: MM7 and MM8 : removal of the Bassingthorpe Farm area from the Green Belt;

: MM13 : the new development at Waverley : the area should remain as a local centre, rather than being designated as a district centre.

Members were informed that further legal advice is to be obtained on the Council's suggested response to the Inspector's main modifications.

It was noted that a number of further public hearing sessions were scheduled to take place with the Inspector.

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

(2) That, subject to the receipt of the legal opinion noted above, the responses to the Inspector's main modifications to Rotherham's Local Plan Core Strategy, as now submitted, be approved insofar as this Steering Group is concerned.

32. SITES AND POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT - PROGRESS

Further to Minute No. 25 of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 14th February, 2014, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Planning Officer, providing an update on the continuing preparation of Rotherham's draft Sites and Policies Document.

Specific reference was made to:-

(i) the emerging Sites and Policies Document must be accord with and deliver the strategic priorities of the Core Strategy, including meeting the amended housing requirement;

(ii) a small number of sites have been reconsidered for their suitability as potential allocations, as a result of the consultation responses received;

(iii) an assessment of the impact of a number of draft allocations on the built historic environment is also required to ensure that this issue has been adequately and robustly assessed; the Council will consult with English Heritage on this issue;

(iv) subject to Cabinet approval, consultation on the Final Draft Sites and Policies Document is expected to take place from 7 July 2014 until 31 August 2014; the Council is preparing a detailed Green Belt Review to support this Document;

(v) the development management policies have been refined in the light of the representations received;

(vi) further work on Minerals is nearing its conclusion and the policies and accompanying map have been updated accordingly.

The Steering Group discussed the amendments to and the updating of the designations on the Policies Map. A draft of the Policies Map was presented to the meeting and highlighted the proposed draft allocations to meet the higher housing target proposed by the Inspector. The various tables, included within the submitted report, identified the changes to allocations which have been made, including the additions and deletions.

Members referred to a number of specific sites and areas of land around the Borough. Further briefing sessions for Elected Members will take place during the next few months.

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

33. LOCAL PLAN STEERING GROUP - CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Further to Minute No. 26 of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 14th February, 2014, consideration was given to the revised constitution and terms of reference of the Local Plan Steering Group. Reference was made to the relationship with the Local Strategic Partnership.

Agreed:- That the revised terms of reference, as now submitted, be approved.

34. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- (1) That the next meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group take place at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Friday, 25th April, 2014, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

(2) That the next following meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group shall take place on Thursday, 5th June, 2014, commencing at 2.30 p.m.