

ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN STEERING GROUP
Friday, 25th April, 2014

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

together with:- Bronwen Knight, Helen Sleight, Andrew Duncan, Neil Rainsforth and Noel Bell (Planning Service)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Currie, Falvey, G. A. Russell, Steele and Whelbourn.

35. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH MARCH, 2014

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

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

36. LOCAL PLAN - CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Further to Minute No. 80 of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 19th April, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Senior Research Officer concerning the proposal to undertake consultation on the Local Plan Final Draft Sites and Policies Document and its accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment during the period from 7th July until 1st September 2014. Members noted that these dates are dependent on receipt of the Inspector's final report on the Core Strategy Examination in Public. 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.

A drop-in session for Borough Councillors and for the Chairs of Parish Councils will be held at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Tuesday, 1st July, 2014. Members asked to be provided with the Internet website link, so as to gain access to the Local Plan documents.

The Steering Group also asked that, if possible, an additional public consultation meeting be considered, which might take place at a venue within the Rotherham town centre.

Agreed:- (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 contained in the report now submitted.

37. REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Planner, providing an update on the preparation of Rotherham's draft revised Statement of Community Involvement. A copy of this revised Statement was appended to the submitted report.

Members noted that the Statement of Community Involvement had originally been considered by this Steering Group at its meeting held on 17th March, 2006, prior to eventual approval of the Statement by the Council (Minute No. B4 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 24th May, 2006, refers). A revision of the Statement is required because, since its adoption in 2006, the national planning context has changed significantly, particularly with the introduction of the Localism Act (2011), the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Discussion took place on the proposed public consultation period of four weeks, the dates for which are to be confirmed. The process will be targeted consultation using the Council's Internet website and focusing upon key stakeholders, statutory consultees and other contacts on the Local Plan consultation database.

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

(2) That the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement, as now submitted, be endorsed.

(3) That a report about the proposed public consultation on the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement shall be submitted to the Cabinet meeting, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 18th June, 2014.

38. LOCAL PLAN - SITES AND POLICIES DOCUMENT - FINAL DRAFT

Further to Minute No. 32 of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 14th March, 2014, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Planning Officer, providing an update on the finalisation of Rotherham's draft Sites and Policies Document and the accompanying Policies Map prior to public consultation during the Summer 2014.

Specific reference was made to:-

: there has been only one major change to the proposed site allocations which were reported to the 14 March 2014 meeting of the Local Plan Steering Group (Site LDF0049, land at the rear of Hague Avenue, Upper Haugh, removed due to archaeological constraints);

: the development management policies have been refined in the light of

previous representations received;

: continuing examination of the Green Belt boundary and the proposed detailed review; there was reference to specific sites throughout the Borough area;

: amendments to and updating of the designations on the emerging plan to replace the current Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map; in future, this plan will be known as the Policies Map; copies of the 2014 draft Policies Map, showing all designations of land use, were displayed at the meeting;

: the implications of the location of the Roman Ridge and the various archaeological finds, affecting many parts of the Rotherham urban area;

: Members noted that receipt of the inspector's final report on the Core Strategy Examination in Public may have a bearing on the proposed development sites; if the Inspector does decide to lower the Borough's housing target, it may be possible to remove some of the extra sites previously identified to meet the Inspector's higher target;

: the need for an additional amount of land allocated for employment/industrial purposes, to meet this Council's economic growth aspirations and contribute to the Sheffield City Region Growth Plan; and such land should be situated in accessible locations (eg: near to motorway junctions);

: national policy relating to the erection of large structures, often for a temporary period of time (eg: use of large marquees for social events).

The submitted report listed a number of background papers which are currently being prepared to support the Sites and Policies document during its next round of consultation. These background papers are:-

- Detailed Green Belt Review
- Protected Sites and Species and designations of the Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites
- Heritage Impact Assessment of a number of proposed sites within or on the edge of Conservation Areas
- Mixed Use Areas Background Paper
- Retail Background Paper
- Hot Food Takeaways Background Paper
- Economic Development Background Paper
- Minerals Background Paper
- Transportation Issues including Transport Assessments; Travel Plans and Parking Standards.

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

(2) That the progress made to finalise the Sites and Policies Document

and Policies Map be noted.

(3) That the Local Plan Steering Group supports the final draft Sites and Policies Document and Policies Map being submitted to the Cabinet meeting on 18th June, 2014 for approval and to undertake the public consultation exercise commencing in July 2014.

39. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Steering Group considered the following issues:-

(1) Local Plan Main Modifications to the Core Strategy - the period for submission of representations had ended on 17th April, 2014; some 190 individual representations had been received, which would be forwarded to the Inspector. It was noted that the Inspector may decide either to hold another public hearing, during May 2014, or he may issue a written response.

(2) Sites and Policies Document – the Council would be making representations to the Government Department for Communities and Local Government, directly and with the aid of the local Members of Parliament, in respect of the decision not to allow phased sites and not to prioritise brownfield sites for future residential development.

40. 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 Thursday, 5th June, 2014, commencing at 2.30 p.m.