

ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN STEERING GROUP
Thursday, 4th September, 2014

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Clark, Doyle, McNeely, Sims, Swift and Whelbourn.

together with:- Bronwen Knight, Andrew Duncan, Neil Rainsforth and Helen Sleigh (Planning Services)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lakin.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5TH JUNE, 2014

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group, held on 5th June, 2014.

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

2. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Planning Policy Manager, providing an update to the Local Development Scheme to reflect the anticipated adoption of the Core Strategy and the revised timetable for publication and submission of the Sites and Policies document to central Government. The report stated that the Rotherham Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out an updated and revised project plan for the preparation of the Development Plan Documents that will comprise Rotherham's Local Plan. The LDS 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 LDS was last formally revised by the Cabinet on 24th April, /2013 (Minute No. C196 refers). This latest update anticipates the adoption of the Core Strategy by the Council on 10th September, 2014, as part of the development plan. It also reflects the revised timetable for further consultation, publication and submission of the Sites and Policies document, necessitated by the slight delay in adopting the Core Strategy.

The revised Local Development Scheme and timetable were appended to the report.

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

(2) That the revised Local Development Scheme be noted.

(3) That this Steering Group supports the recommendation to Cabinet to approve the revised Local Development Scheme.

3. REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Further to Minute No. 37 of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 25th April, 2014, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Planning Policy Manager, providing an update on the preparation of Rotherham's draft revised Statement of Community Involvement.

The report stated that the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how and when stakeholders can influence new planning policy documents covering Rotherham, how information will be communicated and the ways in which individuals and organisations can comment on planning applications. It is critical in encouraging engagement with the communities and stakeholders of Rotherham and a range of other statutory consultees.

The revised SCI is presented in three sections which explore the:-

- approach to community involvement
- influencing of the Local Plan
- ways of getting involved in planning applications

The draft revised SCI was attached to the submitted report and will be included in the consultation process at same time as sites and policies document.

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 this Steering Group the recommendation to Cabinet to approve public consultation on the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement.

4. FINAL DRAFT SITES AND POLICIES DOCUMENT

Further to Minute No. 38 of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 25th April, 2014, consideration was given to a report presented by the Senior Planner, providing an update regarding the finalisation of Rotherham's final draft Sites and Policies Document and accompanying Policies Map prior to consultation commencing (subject to

Cabinet approval) on 13th October, 2014, for a period of six weeks until 24th November, 2014.

Members noted:-

: the Core Strategy is to be presented for adoption at the Council meeting to be held on Wednesday, 10th September, 2014;

: the plans will be made available at local libraries;

: there will be public drop-in sessions and consultation events at various venues around the Borough area;

: a number of sites, around the Borough area, are available for future residential development (white land – which ought not to be developed prior to 2028)

: various evidence base studies, good practice guidance notes and background papers are being finalised to support the Sites and policies document;

: the Consultation and Community Engagement Action Plan was appended to the report.

Discussion took place on various sites around the Rotherham Borough area. Reference was made to the employment policy areas.

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

(2) That this Steering Group notes the progress made to finalise the Document and Policies Map.

(3) That this Steering Group supports the final draft Sites and Policies Document and Policies Map for submission to Cabinet for approval to undertake public consultation commencing on 13th October, 2014.

5. DCLG TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON PLANNING - RESPONSE

Further to Minute No. 28 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Planning, Highways and Street Scene Services, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Planning Manager, concerning the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) extensive consultation document covering numerous aspects of the planning system. The Steering Group noted that the consultation document recommends further deregulation within the planning system and some of the proposals are intended to make permanent a number of temporary arrangements which were introduced in May 2013. The six elements in the consultation are:-

: Speeding up Neighbourhood Planning.

- : Expansion of permitted development rights.
- : Improvements to the use of planning conditions.
- : Improved engagement with statutory consultees.
- : Raising the screening thresholds for environmental impact assessments.
- : Widening the range of consents within the Development Consent Orders which nationally significant infrastructure works are enabled.

The report contained the contents of the proposed response to the coalition Government's consultation documents.

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

(2) That the Council's response to the technical consultation on planning, as now submitted, to be submitted to the Government Department for Communities and Local Government by the due date of Friday, 26th September, 2014, be noted.

6. 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, 24th October, 2014, commencing at 10.00 a.m.