

MINUTE EXTRACT

Cabinet Meeting – 15 March 2018

1. Title of Item/Report

Local Plan Update

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the work undertaken since the last report to Cabinet in September 2017 in respect of submission of the publication draft version of the Local Plan - supporting documents and evidence base and sought approval for delegation for amendments to the draft plan both prior to, during and after Examination in Public to enable the next stage of progress towards adoption.

In June 2016, Cabinet agreed to the production of a new Stockton on Tees Local Plan (STLP) and supporting documents to replace the existing policy documents and supersede the previous approach of the production of the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan.

Members were reminded that consideration was given to the Regulation 18 Consultation version of the draft STLP and supporting documents in November 2016. Followed by a report to Cabinet seeking approval for consult on the Publication Draft Local Plan in September 2017.

Following approval to consult on the Publication Draft Local Plan, a six week consultation was undertaken. Drop in sessions for the public, stakeholders and Members were held across the Borough with a total of 411 representations made from 116 individuals. All of the representations and summary of responses were set out within the Consultation Statement which was available on the Council's website.

Following consideration of representations and completion of accompanying evidence base and supporting documentation, the Publication Draft Local Plan and all supporting documents was submitted for examination to the Secretary of State on 21st December 2017.

Matthew Birkenshaw had been appointed as Planning Inspector for the Examination in Public (EiP) with the date of 5th June 2018 set as the opening day of what was expected to be a three week EiP.

In the lead up to EiP, the Planning Inspector would identify specific matters where he required more clarity or greater explanation and which could require officers to reflect on the proposed policy wording or policy principle resulting in a proposed amendment, variation, modification, revision, withdrawal or revocations to the Local Plan which the Planning Inspector would then consider at the EiP. Furthermore the Inspector could also recommend amendments, variations, modifications, revisions, withdrawals or revocations for inclusion.

It was possible that the outcome of the various matters scrutinised at the EiP would be the need for modifications to the plan in order that the plan meets the tests of soundness within the National Planning Policy Framework. At this stage, any modifications will be at the recommendation of the Planning

Inspector and would therefore be crucial to the plan being found to be sound by the Planning Inspector.

A period of public consultation may be required for modifications that emerge from the EiP before they were incorporated into what would be the Publication Draft Local Plan including main modifications which would then be presented to Cabinet and ultimately Council for formal adoption.

During the consultation period, briefing sessions would be held for members to ensure any queries around modifications to the plan could be fully explained and that Members had opportunity to formally comment on modifications before it was presented to Council for adoption. It was expected that the plan would be in position where it was presented to Council for adoption in Autumn 2018.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Approval of amendments, variations, modifications, revisions, withdrawals or revocations to the Publication Draft Local Plan recommended by the Inspector appointed to examine the local plan in advance of Examination in Public be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.
2. Approval of amendments, variations, modifications, revisions, withdrawals or revocations to the Publication Draft Local Plan recommended by the Inspector appointed to examine the local plan following Examination in Public be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Development in consultation with Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.
3. Approval of amendments, variations, modifications, revisions, withdrawals or revocations to the Publication Draft Local Plan that are recommended by the Inspector appointed to examine the local plan during the Examination in Public be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Development and such other officers as he may nominate.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

4. The request that in the event that further modifications are required to the Local Plan in accordance with section 20(7B) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 be endorsed to ensure the plan satisfies the requirements in section 20(5)(a) of the 2004 Act and is a sound document, that the Inspector appointed to carry out the examination of the Stockton on Tees Local Plan, be requested to recommend modifications of the document, in accordance with section 20(7C) of the 2004 Act and that the determination of the modifications to be requested to be made be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Development and such other officers as he may authorise.
5. Approval to consult, where necessary, on the main modifications recommended by the Inspector appointed to examine the Local Plan or additional modifications to the Publication Draft Local Plan following Examination in Public and before adoption of the Local Plan be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Development in consultation with Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing