

Local Development Framework Steering Group

A meeting of Local Development Framework Steering Group was held on Wednesday, 18th June, 2008.

Present: Cllr Robert Cook (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Mick Womphrey

Officers: D Bage, M Clifford, J Elliott, R Young (DNS); F Shayler (LD).

Also in attendance: none

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Nelson, Cllr Patterson, Cllr Walmsley.

LDF 27/08 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Cook declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 further to working within the chemical industry.

LDF 28/08 **Minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2008**

The draft minutes of the meeting agreed as a correct record subject to amendments as noted by the Democratic Services Officer.

LDF 29/08 **SUBMISSION CORE STRATEGY: PUBLICATION DOCUMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

Members were provided with the draft Submission Core Strategy, which was scheduled for publication in September.

The Core Strategy was the overarching plan which sets out the broad framework for all other development plan documents. It sets out the key elements of the planning framework for the area, comprising a spatial vision, strategic objectives, core policies and a monitoring and implementation framework.

Stockton's Core Strategy included eleven key policies. These set out a spatial strategy for the Borough, and cover the main topics of sustainable transport, sustainable living, economic regeneration, town centres, community facilities, provision of housing (including phasing, distribution, mix and affordable housing, together with provision for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people), environmental protection and planning obligations.

The Core Strategy needed to be read as a whole. Therefore, in line with advice from Go-North East, policies had been written to be concise, positively setting out the key elements that the Council wants to achieve through the development plan, avoiding repetition and aiming for consistency through out the document.

At the meeting, a more 'in-depth' explanation of each policy would be given, highlighting any changes from previous versions of the document. Members' views and comments on the Submission Core Strategy were welcomed, in relation to the vision, objectives, and policy content, and also in relation to consistency with the spatial strategy.

The Core Strategy would be supported by a number of documents, the Sustainability Appraisal being the most important. This had been used to inform the development of policies, to propose a strategy which puts sustainability at its heart.

Once agreement from Cabinet and Council had been received, the Core Strategy would progress to examination in line with the proposed changes to the process of producing Local Development Documents, expected to be introduced in June 2008. This would mean that the Core Strategy would be published for consultation in September. There would be a period of consultation, and then any minor changes necessary would be made. It was anticipated that it would be submitted to the Secretary of State in January 2009, ready for examination in April 2009.

Members discussed in detail each of the Core Strategy Policies and made amendments as noted by Officers. These amendments would be included within the document prior to being submitted to Cabinet and Council for endorsement.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The contents of the report be noted.
2. The amendments to the Core Strategy suggested by Members be approved.