

## **Local Development Framework Steering Group**

A meeting of Local Development Framework Steering Group was held on Wednesday, 28th January, 2009.

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

**Officers:** D Bage, M Clifford, J Dixon, Miss L Edwards, Mrs J Elliott, Miss R Richardson and Mrs R Young (DNS); Mrs T Harrison (LD)

**Also in attendance:** No other person's were present

**Apologies:** Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Steve Walmsley and Cllr Mick Womphrey

### **LDF 56/08      Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in the item entitled Core Strategy Representations due to being employed in the chemical industry.

### **LDF 57/08      Draft Minutes of 8th December 2008**

Consideration was given to the content of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2009.

CONCLUDED that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2009 be agreed.

### **LDF 58/08      Core Strategy Representations**

Members were provided with a report which set out for Members' information, a summary of the representations received during the consultation relating to the Publication Draft Core Strategy Development Plan Document.

The Core Strategy Development Plan Document was published at the end of October to coincide with the beginning of an 8 week period within which representations to the Plan were invited. The period had ended on 22 December 2008.

Representations were to relate to the 'tests of soundness' against which the Core Strategy would be examined. To be 'sound' the Core Strategy should be:

- Legally compliant
- Justified
- Effective
- Consistent with national policy

67 responses had been received, resulting in a total of approximately 280 individual comments. It was noted that 180 of the comments were formal objections. Members were provided with a schedule of comments.

It was explained that prior to submission of the Core Strategy to the Planning Inspectorate for examination, Stockton Borough Council would need to assess the key issues raised during consultation, and form a view as to whether any of

these were likely to undermine the 'soundness' of the plan.

A series of meetings would need to take place to discuss issues with Government Office North East, and key stakeholders, to clarify matters and to identify common ground.

Members were informed that the provisional date for submission of the Core Strategy to the Planning Inspectorate was early April, although this would depend on the nature of the key issues identified, and whether it was considered necessary for further work to be undertaken to support the Council's stance at examination.

Members were presented with and discussed the 11 major issues emerging from public consultation.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.