

Local Development Framework Steering Group

A meeting of Local Development Framework Steering Group was held on Tuesday, 25th August, 2009.

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

Officers: D Bage, M Clifford, J Dixon, I Nichols, Miss R Richardson, Mrs C Straughan, Mrs R Young (DNS); Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: No other persons were present

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Steve Nelson and Cllr Ross Patterson

LDF 20/09 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cook declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to the item - Report on Main Matters and Issues Report on the Core Strategy Independent Examination, due to working in the chemical industry.

LDF 21/09 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2009

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2009.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2009 be approved.

LDF 22/09 Report on Main Matters and Issues Report on the Core Strategy Independent Examination

Members were provided with and considered the main matters and issues paper produced by the Inspector appointed to conduct the independent examination into the Soundness of the Core Strategy and the officer's subsequent responses. The Inspector's questions and Officers' responses are appended to the minutes (for a copy please see Appendix 1 and 2 of the entry on agenda, agenda and minute retrieval system for the meeting dated 25th August 2009, Main Matters And Issues Report).

Members received clarification on queries regarding:-

- sustainable villages
- The affect on social mix
- Whether the economy would recover
- Traffic and congestion
- The possibility of a Hospital at Wynyard
- The re-branding of shops such as Tesco and Sainsbury which allowed them to effectively be corner shops
- Bus services to Teesside Park.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

LDF 23/09 Progress on Core Strategy Independent Examination

Members were advised on the outcome of the Pre Hearing Meeting of the Independent Examination into the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD), for Members' information.

The Submission Draft Core Strategy (CS) and its supporting documents were submitted to the Secretary of State on 27 May 2009. This began the independent examination process.

On the 5 August 2009, the appointed inspector, Robert Yuille, held a Pre-Hearing Meeting (PHM). The purpose of this meeting was to explain the nature of the examination and how it would be run. The issues that would be discussed, the timetable for the discussion and the representatives who would be involved, were also set out at the PHM. The Inspector also raised issues relating the proposed changes to the CS.

When the Council submitted the Core Strategy, the Publication Draft was submitted along side a Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Core Strategy Publication Draft. This schedule was to be treated as part of the submitted version of the CS and had not been through public consultation.

The Inspector was satisfied that the majority of the proposed changes were minor and that they were intended to make the document more legible or up to date. However, it was considered that a number of changes relating to the affordable housing policy (Policy CS8) introduced a more significant change to the CS. It was determined that the proposed changes relating to affordable housing would be advertised for a period of 4 weeks, to allow representations to be made, which would then be considered at the hearing. This period would expire on 10 September 2009.

The Hearing for the Independent Examination was scheduled to begin on 22nd September, and to continue until 2 October. A draft timetable for the Examination was provided to Members but it was subject to change. Any further updates to the programme would be shown on the 'Core Strategy Examination Home Page'.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.