

DEVELOPMENT PLAN PANEL

7TH MARCH 2006

PRESENT Councillor D Blackburn in the Chair
Councillors Blake, Cleasby, Congreve,
Leadley, J Procter and Taggart (part)

75 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Carter and Councillor Harker.

On behalf of the Panel the Chair sent best wishes to Councillor Harker for a speedy recovery

76 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

77 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Development Plan Panel meeting held on 17th February 2006 be approved as a correct record

78 Local Development Framework – Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – Submission to Secretary of State for independent examination (Regulation 28)

Members considered a report by the Director of Development setting out the revised draft SCI and the comments made throughout the consultation period. A schedule of the comments received and a revised SCI in light of these comments were appended to the report.

Officers presented the report and reminded Members that the SCI was an early priority and sets out the intention and approach to consultation in the future on Local Development Framework Documents.

Members received a verbal summary of the events undertaken and the range of comments made. The Panel was informed that all the suggestions that were made and were relevant had been taken into account, including those not duly made.

Members discussed the report and appendices and commented on the following:

- The relatively low level of responses by the public compared with that of organisations and developers
- A lack of evidence to demonstrate that hard to reach groups had been engaged in the process
- The level of some of the responses received
- Concern that where positive comments had been made, the response set out in the document had appeared negative
- The possibility that the lack of involvement could be due to an acceptance of what was being done

Officers accepted the difficulties in consulting on the SCI as it was about describing a process which could be difficult to relate to, however the

Head of Planning and Economic Policy stated there had been many quality responses made by the public and that from comparisons with neighbouring authorities, Leeds' consultation had received greater input. A range of events, locations and methods had been undertaken to engage with the public, and there had been varying degrees of success. However, the Panel was informed that the results had provided a baseline for officers to improve from, and that the resulting document would provide a platform to undertake consultation on other LDF documents in the future

A discussion ensued on alternative methods to involve people in the process with suggestions being made to utilise some local radio stations and to create a web page where people could post their comments

Concerns were raised that whilst further consultation would be desirable, the tight timescales imposed for clearance through the Authority and to the Secretary of State could prevent this from happening. To address this a further review of the comments made would be undertaken with a more positive response provided where possible, and amendments made to the introduction of the SCI

RESOLVED –

- (i) To note the outcome of the formal consultation already undertaken
- (ii) That a further review of the comments made be undertaken and a more positive response made to these, where possible
- (iii) That the introduction to the SCI be amended to state that the document has been out for consultation which has been considered carefully and which informs the document going forward
- (iv) Subject to the above amendments, to recommend to the Executive Board that it makes a recommendation to Council to approve the draft 'Statement of Community Involvement' for submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- (v) To note the comments made about the consultation process, levels of engagement and alternative methods of consultation

79 Leeds Local Development Framework – Revised Local Development Scheme

The Panel received a report by the Director of Development setting out proposed updates and revisions to the current LDF – Local Development Scheme (LDS). A copy of the updated LDF –LDS was appended to the report and a revised GANNTT chart showing the latest timetable of the LDS production programme was tabled for Members' consideration

The Head of Planning and Economic Policy introduced the report and provided an update for the Panel on adjustments to the timeline, highlighted future pressures and indicated the likelihood of new Government guidance which could impact on the process

RESOLVED –

- (i) To note the updates and revisions to the Local Development Framework – Local Development Scheme, included at Appendix 1 of the submitted report

(ii) To recommend that Executive Board approve the updates and the revisions to the Local Development Scheme included at Appendix 1 for submission to the Secretary of State in due course