

**Report of the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure and Investment)**

**Date: 19 July 2017**

**Subject: Draft Terms of Reference – Inquiry into Sustainable Development in Leeds**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**1. Summary of Main Issues**

Leeds City Council has an ambition to be the best council in the UK, compassionate fair, open and welcoming with an economy that is both prosperous and sustainable so all our communities are successful. The Vision for Leeds 2011 – 2030 supports this ambition, stating that by 2030 all communities will be successful where local services, including shops and healthcare, are easy to access and meet people's needs. It also states that local cultural and sporting activities are available to all and there are high quality buildings, places and green spaces, which are clean, looked after, and respect the city's heritage, including buildings, parks and the history of our communities. The Best Council Plan 2017 – 2018 states that the Council wants everyone to live in good quality, affordable homes within clean and well cared for places.

At its meeting on the 21 of June 2017, Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure and Investment) considered their work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year. At this meeting the Board discussion the approach in Leeds to 'sustainable development' through the provision of structure that supports the physical and social needs of the people, now and in the future, who will ultimately, live, work and spend time in their community. The Scrutiny Board stressed the importance of designing and planning places that are supported sufficiently by transport, health and education infrastructure and services. The Board resolved that this would be the main scrutiny inquiry for 2017/18.

## **2. Recommendation**

The Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure and Investment) is recommended to:

- a) note the information contained within this report, make further recommendation to update the terms of reference where necessary.
- b) agree the terms of reference for the inquiry or recommend that updated terms of reference be brought back to the meeting in September for agreement.
- c) note that the terms of reference may incorporate additional information during the inquiry should the Scrutiny Board identify any further scope for inquiry or request further witness or evidence.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report sets out the draft terms of reference for the Scrutiny Boards inquiry into Sustainable Development in Leeds.

### Terms of Reference

## **2. Scope of the Inquiry**

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 21 of June 2017, Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure and Investment) considered their work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year. At this meeting the Board discussion the approach in Leeds to 'sustainable development' through the provision of structure that supports the physical and social needs of the people, now and in the future, who will ultimately, live, work and spend time in their community. The Scrutiny Board stressed the importance of designing and planning places that are supported sufficiently by transport, health and education infrastructure and services. The Board resolved that this would be the main scrutiny inquiry for 2017/18.

- 2.2 The purpose of the inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations about the delivery of sustainable development in Leeds, and the extent to which the local authority can influence sustainable development.

The Board recognises that a number of key partners have involved in meeting the demand for physical and social structure in communities and have already expressed a desire to explore the strength of partnership and level of commitment in this regard.

The following areas are scheduled for discussion on the 19 July.

- The origins and definition of the term, "Sustainable Development".
- The definition of "Sustainable Development", as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Against this framework and in relation to Planning, how the principles of Sustainable Development have been applied in Leeds through the development plan and development management decisions, and how its principles been translated into practice.
- In translating these principles, the key Policy issues that have emerged, which have skewed the delivery of Sustainable Development in its wider sense (such as the need to demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply and viability appraisals) and how have they been addressed.
- Sustainable Development principles operate at a variety of scales and impact upon places. In terms of 'local sustainability', Section 106 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) are tools to assist with the delivery of infrastructure to support regeneration and growth. The approach in Leeds and how effective is it being.

- 2.3 Additional guidance has been sought from the Head of Strategic Planning, City Development in order to develop the initial areas of focus for the inquiry.

### **3. Desired Outcomes and Measures of Success**

- 3.1 It is important to consider how the Scrutiny Board will deem if its inquiry has been successful in making a difference. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.
- 3.2 Following the inquiry the Scrutiny Board will publish its report which will identify clear desired outcomes. These will be reflected in the recommendations made. The director or organisation to whom the recommendations have been made will be responsible for monitoring the impact of each recommendation and for advising the Scrutiny Board accordingly as the board reviews progress.

### **4. Comments of the relevant Director and Executive Member**

- 4.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.1 where a Scrutiny Board undertakes an Inquiry the Scrutiny Board shall consult with any relevant Director and Executive Member on the terms of reference.

### **5. Timetable for the inquiry**

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the inquiry will take place over a number of sessions from September 2017 to conclude on or before the meeting 20 December 2017. It is expected that the inquiry report will be agreed by the Scrutiny Board on the 21 March 2018. The length of the inquiry and range of evidence to be collected is however subject to change by agreement of the Board. Any changes may have an impact on the date that the inquiry report is completed and agreed by the Scrutiny Board.

### **6. Witnesses**

- 6.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:
- Leeds City Council Officers
  - Elected Members
  - Key Partners, Stakeholders and Community Organisations

### **7 Corporate Considerations**

#### **7.1 Consultation and Engagement**

The board may undertake consultation should it be deemed appropriate in order to conduct the inquiry or gather necessary evidence.

#### **7.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration.**

- 7.2.1 Equality Improvement Priorities have been developed to ensure our legal duties are met under the Equality Act. The priorities will help the council to achieve its ambition to be the best City in the UK and ensure that as a city work takes place to reduce disadvantage, discrimination and inequalities of opportunity.

- 7.2.2 Equality and diversity will be a consideration throughout the Scrutiny Inquiry and due regard will be given to equality through the use of evidence, written and verbal, outcomes from consultation and engagement activities.
- 7.2.3 The Scrutiny Board may engage and involve interested groups and individuals (both internal and external to the council) to inform recommendations.
- 7.2.4 Where an impact has been identified this will be reflected in the final inquiry report, post inquiry. Where a Scrutiny Board recommendation is agreed the individual, organisation or group responsible for implementation or delivery should give due regard to equality and diversity, conducting impact assessments where it is deemed appropriate.

### **7.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

This inquiry will support objectives as defined in The Vision for Leeds 2011 – 2030 and the Best Council Plan 2015-20

### **7.4 Resources and Value for Money**

There is no resource or value for money implications relating to this report. At the conclusion of the inquiry any identified impact will be reported in the final inquiry report.

### **7.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

None

### **7.6 Risk Management**

There are no risk implications relating to this report. At the conclusion of the inquiry any identified risk will be reported in the final inquiry report.

## **8 Recommendations**

The Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure and Investment) is recommended to:

- a) note the information contained within this report, make further recommendation to update the terms of reference where necessary.
- b) agree the terms of reference for the inquiry or recommend that updated terms of reference be brought back to the meeting in September for agreement.
- c) note that the terms of reference may incorporate additional information during the inquiry should the Scrutiny Board identify any further scope for inquiry or request further witness or evidence.

## **9 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.