

## **Development Plan Panel**

**Tuesday, 7th September, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Councillor N Taggart in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, C Fox, T Leadley,  
J Lewis, R Lewis and E Nash

### **18 Chair's opening remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **19 Late items**

There were no formal late items but the Chair made reference to an e-mail which had been sent to all Panel Members by Councillor Illingworth stating that the comments he had made as part of the consultation had not been included in the report, particularly in respect of a natural footpath desire line at Dunkirk Hill

Councillor Taggart asked Officers to address the issues raised by Councillor Illingworth when presenting the report on the West Leeds Gateway SPD

### **20 Declaration of interests**

The following Members declared personal/prejudicial interests for the purposes of Section 81(3) of the Local Government Act 2000 and paragraphs 8 to 12 of the Members Code of Conduct

West Leeds Gateway Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (minute 23 refers):

Councillor Taggart declared a personal interest as a member of West Leeds Gateway Steering Group through his involvement with the West Leeds Gateway Programme Board which had commented as part of the consultation process

Councillor Fox declared a personal interest as a member of Leeds Local Access Forum which had commented as part of the consultation process

Councillor Nash declared personal interests through being a member of English Heritage which had commented as part of the consultation process and also as a Friend of Leeds Museum as proposed improvements to the Industrial Museum at Armley Mills were referred to within the SPD

### **21 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mulherin

### **22 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Development Plan Panel meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010 be approved

## **23 West Leeds Gateway Supplementary Planning Document**

Further to minute 39 of the Development Plan Panel meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010 where Panel accepted the proposal to convert the West Leeds Gateway Area Action Plan (AAP) to a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), Members considered a report of the Director of City Development setting out a summary of the responses received to the consultation carried out in June-July 2010; Officers' responses to the comments and the proposed amendments to the SPD arising from these comments. A copy of the SPD document was included with the papers sent to Members for the meeting

The Head of Forward Planning and Implementation stated that following the decision to take the West Leeds Gateway document forward as an SPD, a further 6 week period of public consultation had been undertaken and it was now felt that the document was ready to be adopted as formal planning guidance

Members were informed that a change to the process meant that the SPD did not now need to be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination and if Development Plan Panel was satisfied with the document the next stage would be to recommend to Executive Board that the SPD be formally adopted

Although the SPD could not allocate land for development purposes it would inform the site allocations plan and the UDP and would support the continued regeneration of West Leeds

The latest round of consultation resulted in 28 responses being received although Officers were unsurprised by the relatively low level of responses in view of the extensive consultation which had been carried out previously since 2005

In addition to the amendments to be made following the last round of consultation, the document would also be amended to remove references to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) following its abolition

Officers highlighted the main areas of comment which were stated as:

- Greenspace
- Economics of development
- The National Grid and Armley Gytratory

Regarding Dunkirk Hill, Officers stated that no representation had been received from Councillor Illingworth on this matter. However the proposal raised by Councillor Illingworth regarding the footpath running over the top of Dunkirk Hill, along the rim of the railway cutting and linking up with the Canal towpath and Kirkstall Nature Reserve was worthy of support. Councillor Illingworth had requested this footpath be incorporated into the Definitive Footpath Map and added to West Leeds Gateway SPD

The Panel was informed that the SPD could not designate new footpaths and there appeared to be some dispute with a private landowner about the public's right to access a part of the route. This was something which would need to be addressed in work being undertaken to complete the Definitive Map for Leeds and Members were informed that Councillor Illingworth's e-mail had been forwarded to the Rights of Way team within the Council

Officers stated that the West Leeds Gateway SPD proposed a Planning Brief for the Armley Mills site and it would be possible to incorporate an aspiration to achieve this footpath link within that document

Members discussed the following matters:

- the need for railway stations in the area, particularly to serve a recently approved mixed-use development on Kirkstall Road

- the comment received regarding the lack of play areas for children and the need for Parks and Countryside section to pick this matter up, particularly in the PPG17 Audit
- that the document should have remained an Area Action Plan
- the Coal Authority's comments regarding mineral extraction; that whilst this would be covered in other documents, especially the Natural Resources and Waste DPD, the view that the comments made by the Coal Authority should be included. Officers stated that further clarity could be made in responding to the points raised as part of the consultation (included within the schedule of comments)
- the legal issues involved in public access to footpaths or realignment of footpaths; the Public Rights of Way improvement plan which was an aspiration; the need for a permissive plan but the difficulties in achieving this due to the length of the list of Rights of Way to be investigated and the lack of resources to achieve this

**RESOLVED -**

- i) To note the representations received on the West Leeds Gateway SPD, the recommended responses to these and the comments now made
- ii) That subject to the proposed amendments as set out in the submitted report; the removal of references to the RSS and an amendment to expand upon the issues raised by the Coal Authority in its latest response, that Executive Board be recommended to adopt the West Leeds Gateway Area Supplementary Planning Document

**24 Date and time of next meeting**

The Chair referred to the possibility of re-arranging meeting dates to enable Councillor Mulherin, who had been appointed to the Panel, to be able to attend the meetings

The Chair stated that he would check the possibility of altering the date of the next meeting from 12<sup>th</sup> October to 8<sup>th</sup> October and Members would be advised if that was to be the case