

Development Plan Panel

Tuesday, 19th March, 2019

PRESENT: Councillor P Gruen in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, C Campbell,
C Gruen, T Leadley, J McKenna,
M Shazad, F Venner and N Walshaw

58 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal.

59 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information.

60 Late Items

There were no formal late items of business added to the agenda.

61 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

62 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Carter and R Lewis and Tim Hill, Chief Planning Officer.

63 Minutes

RESOLVED- That the minutes of the Development Plan Panel meetings held on:

- a) 18th December 2018, be approved as a correct record.
- b) 10th January 2019, be approved as a correct record.

64 Matters Arising

18th December 2018

Minute 47 Section 78 Appeal Decisions – The Panel were informed that the Carlton appeal had been upheld by the Inspector. The Panel's frustration was noted, due to the Council's success with the Tingley Station and Thorp Arch appeals, and given the strengthened position on the 5 year land supply.

Minute 48 Neighbourhood Plans – The Panel were informed that there are now 13 Neighbourhood Plans in Leeds, including the addition of Kippax, Bramham and Scarcroft. The Panel also noted that Plans for Holbeck and Walton had been nominated for a national planning award and Members thanked officers involved with this and asked for this to be passed on to all involved.

10th January 2019

Minute 56 Site Allocations Plan Update – The Panel were informed the consultation period on the Inspector's main modifications had closed and 900 representations

had been received; it was noted that upon consideration of the representations, the Inspector will prepare the final report. Members sought clarity on the context of the responses and were informed the general theme of comments related to the support of deleted sites and the reviewing of the plan by 2023.

65 Examination of the Leeds Core Strategy Selective Review

The Head of Strategic Planning, presented a report which provided an overview of the Core Strategy Selective Review (CSSR) Examination Hearings which had taken place over a two week period and an outline of the process leading up to the adoption of the Plan. In general, key responses at the hearing included:

- Housing Requirement Policy SP6 – Housebuilders felt that the proposed housing requirement was too low in order to deliver greater quantities of affordable housing, whereas community groups felt this figure was too high.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy EN8 – Housebuilders raised concerns in regard to trailing of cables.
- Housing Standards (i) Nationally Described Space Standards Policy H9 – whether need could be demonstrated.
- Affordable housing Policy H5 – the Inspector suggested that a new glossary of terms be looked at, to clarify how the Council’s definitions of affordable housing sit in relation to new definitions in the glossary of NPPF 2019.

Members were informed that council officers had responded to a schedule of actions provided by the Inspector and these had been submitted to the Programme Officer; upon receiving the suggested schedule of main modifications (which will indicate where the Inspector requires changes to be made in order to respond to comments and make the plan sound) from the Inspector, these can be considered by Executive Board and will provide a clear indication of where consultation will be required.

Moving forward, the Panel agreed officers should take all measures in conjunction with Executive Board Members and the Leader to continue to expedite a smooth plan making process towards Adoption of the Plan.

The Panel discussed the following key issues with officers:

Policy H5 Affordable Housing

- The Panel were informed the proposed increases from 5% to 7%, showed it was viable strategically.

Housing Standards (i) Nationally Described Space Standards – Policy H9

- The Panel noted that in terms of the Inspector suggesting a main modification to strengthen the requirements, the word “must” had been substituted for the word “should”.
- Officers have looked at the energy efficiency policies and it was agreed for this to be reviewed through the next local plan review; which provides an opportunity to tackle the quality of schemes.
- In relation to applying a transitional period to the Nationally Described Space Standards (NDSS), officers confirmed there are schemes in Leeds being built to the higher standards and on that basis, felt that transitional arrangements weren’t required.

Green Space – Policy G4, G5 and G6

- The Panel noted that there are 4 criterion around where green space is to be provided on site; the Policy could read that all 4 of these criterion are to be satisfied at the same time but 1 or all of those could be a trigger for providing greenspace offsite.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Policy EN8

- The Panel discussed the viability of charging points per dwelling or parking space. Members raised concern in relation to:
 - I. The need to implement the importance of housebuilders providing charging points within schemes, particularly in respect of new builds;
 - II. Difficulties of retrofitting houses on streets with no parking resulting in those properties being excluded from using environmentally friendly vehicles and ways to tackle this in the future;
 - III. Safety issues surrounding cables.
- The Panel noted the council's strategy to use trickle charging, and the lower impact this would have on electricity infrastructure. It was also noted that electric vehicle charging points, need to be included in the layout of developments at the application stage. Members raised concern that technology and the demand for electrical vehicles will progress, and residents will not want to wait overnight for their car to charge. It was requested for further discussion in the future regarding this.

Climate Change Reduction - Policies EN1, EN2

- It was noted that upon receipt of guidance from the Government, it was important that this be circulated to Members to understand and receive clarity on where change is needed. Officers agreed to further update to the Panel on how the policies are performing and what can be done in terms of climate change.

Next Steps / Timetable

- Members noted the Inspector's latest note will be published on the examination webpage and officers are to seek clarity from the Inspector whether any further actions notes are to be issued upon confirmation of this, the Council will await the main modifications for the council to consult on.

In conclusion, the Chair acknowledged a whole council approach and collaborating with external partners would be helpful in moving forward, towards the adoption of the Core Strategy Selective Review.

RESOLVED-

- a) To note the summary of the hearings outlined in the report.
- b) To note the Council's response to the Inspector's actions arising will be made available on the examination webpage.
- c) To note the next steps in the process leading up to the adoption of the CSSR.

66 Leeds Local Development Framework - Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)

The report of the Director of City Development outlined the performance of specific planning policies and summarised progress against milestones set out for the preparation of Local Development Documents, identified as part of the Local Development Scheme (LDS).

The Principal Planner introduced the report and presented highlights of the 2017/18 period to Members of the Board, including:

- Encouraging developments had taken place south of the river.
- New retail had taken a dip and City Centre footfall was down by 2% but prime shopping pitches in Leeds City Centre remained strong.
- Housing delivery was below target with 2,333 dwellings completed but this must be considered against the revised housing target of 3,247 dwellings/year in the advanced CSSR.
- The first Kirkstall Forge office development was completed.
- Planning permission was granted for the East Leeds Orbital Route in December 2017.
- Waste generation saw a drop of nearly 9,000 tonnes in household waste and nearly 11,000 tonnes in municipal waste.

Members sought clarity regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in regard to reviewing spend. Members were informed that for the last 2 years, Executive Board has taken the decision to fund education provision. Officers confirmed the Government has committed to look at CIL regulations and national policy changes. Upon confirmation, the Council will be able to look at the CIL charging schedule.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report and comments made during discussions.

67 Any Other Business

Officers provided the Panel with a brief summary of topics within the work schedule for the remainder of the year, including:

- An update on the monitoring of policies - CSSR and SAP.
- Housing Mix following the Scrutiny Board (I,I&IG) Report.
- Infrastructure in terms of the Health Agenda.
- Statement of Community Involvement.
- Update on the Gypsies and Travellers policy.
- Start of scoping for plan making (NPPF).

A Member suggested further areas of work for the Panel and officers - space standards for students and public transport contributions.

The Head of Development Management informed the Panel of changes within the service, since the last meeting, including:

- Refuse collection – A guidance document has been created by waste management and once this has been brought forward, this can be adopted.

- Standard of Locks – Officers have started to raise the issue at Pre Application stage with developers. Members noted that a guidance document is attached to all decision notices.

68 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note the date and time of the next meeting as 16th April 2019 at 13.30.