

Development Plan Panel

Tuesday, 3rd September, 2019

PRESENT: Councillor N Walshaw in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, C Campbell,
A Carter, C Gruen, J McKenna, S Arif,
D Collins, L Mulherin and K Ritchie

11 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal

12 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information.

13 Late Items

The Panel was in receipt of the Executive Board Report and its appendices, which was considered as a late item of business. These documents could not be provided to DPP at the time of the agenda despatch, due to the publication timescales of the relevant Executive Board agenda. However, it is deemed appropriate that such matters be considered at this DPP meeting.

14 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Finnigan.

16 Bradford Core Strategy Partial Review

The report of the Chief Planning Officer invited the Development Plan Panel to note the proposals set out in Bradford's Core Strategy Partial Review (CSPR) Preferred Options and the implications for Leeds. The report detailed the CSPR Preferred Options which included proposed changes to the adopted Core Strategy. The CSPR Preferred Options are subject to public consultation from 30th July to 24th September 2019.

Appendix 1 to the report set out Bradford's consultation questions with proposed overall comments and suggested Leeds responses to Bradford.

The Team Leader presented the report and provided background content to the Bradford CSPR, further highlighting Leeds' concerns and comments about some of the draft proposals detailed at Appendix 1. It was noted that Leeds would have continued and on-going engagement with Bradford throughout the process.

The Panel discussed the following key issues with officers:

In response to a question in regard to the timeline of the Site Allocations Plan (SAP) for Bradford, Leeds will need to enquire whether Bradford intends to update the timescales for its SAP in its Local Development Scheme.

South East Bradford. In regard to transport infrastructure Members raised concerns about new road links along the Green Belt gap between Leeds and Bradford.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in response to concerns in regard to the reduction in pitches, it was agreed that officers should seek dialogue with Bradford to better understand Bradford's methodology for their need assessment and whether the Gypsy and Traveller Exchange could be involved.

Location of Housing. Members questioned the impact Bradford would have on Leeds, specifically in relation to an increase in traffic. Officers confirmed that current proposals are high level and lack detail of exact scale and location and that this information could be included in subsequent stages of the Core Strategy or in the Site Allocations Plan which Leeds will be able to comment on in due course.

Climate Emergency. Members agreed that the information provided in the report covered very little scope in providing an explanation on the effect of climate change, particularly in regard to transport issues and proposals with Leeds Bradford Airport. Officers explained Bradford are introducing and strengthening policies of which Leeds already have implemented; the Chief Planning Officer confirmed neighbouring authorities would need to work collaboratively across the city region to ensure the policies implemented are consistent.

Engagement - Leeds City Region Strategic Duty to Co-operate. Members highlighted the importance of ensuring Council Members are kept up to date with Bradford's proposals and that regular updates are received. Officers confirmed Members would be kept up to date on currently proposed proposals and that the Preferred Options stage provided officers and Members with an opportunity to highlight concerns, in an attempt to influence the next stage of the plan proposal. The Chief Planning Officer explained the process of the Duty to Co-operate and informed Members they had previously received the background paper, detailing how cross boundary matters are dealt with.

Green belt. In response to a Members' question in regard to protecting green belt, it was brought to Members' attention that sites put forward in the SAP are considered in terms of the green belt gap and proximity to Bradford; there has to be a sound plan which is evidence based. Additionally, there is an agreed methodology and each Local Authority presents its proposals at the earliest stage for comment.

In conclusion, the Chair re-iterated matters which Panel had consistently raised as an issue and sought to ensure that Members comments were included in the consultation response relating to:

- Location of houses
- Transport infrastructure investment
- Gypsy and Traveller sites
- Impacts on the climate change emergency proposals

In addition, the Chair further made reference to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and the mass transit system plans. The Chair suggested that this

be brought back as an item at a future Panel meeting to discuss the emerging plan proposals.

The Chief Planning Officer confirmed that Leeds would make the comments to Bradford as set out in the appendix to the report with a covering letter summarising the comments raised by Development Plan Panel Members.

RESOLVED –

- a) To note the contents of the report and discussions held at the meeting;
- b) To note the draft public consultation comments attached at Appendix 1;
- c) To note that the comments made at the meeting would be attached to the schedule of responses at Appendix 1, subject to further comment from Panel Members, prior to the submission to Bradford before the consultation deadline 24th September;
- d) To note the intention to receive a further update at a future Panel meeting in regard to the issues outlined in discussions.

17 Core Strategy Selective Review Update

Further to Minute No. 86 of the meeting held 15th May 2019, the report of the Chief Planning Officer invited the Panel to note the progression of the Core Strategy Selective Review and invited Development Plan Panel to recommend to Executive Board that: Executive Board note the Inspector's final report on the Publication Draft and endorses the Core Strategy Selective Review.

It was noted that prior to the meeting, Panel Members had received a form late item including the Executive Board Report, Appendix 1 – Inspector's Report and Main Modifications, Appendix 2 – Adoption Version Core Strategy Selective Review, Appendix 3 – Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening, all of which were to be taken into consideration by Panel Members.

The Team Leader presented the report and summarised the main points detailed in the Executive Board Report. Members noted the CSSR would be considered by EB by 3rd September 2019 with a recommendation that Full Council be recommended to adopt the draft CSSR (Version for Adoption).

In response to Members' comments and concerns, the Panel received further information regarding:

- *Policy SP7 (housing distribution)*. A Member noted the importance of the Inspector's modification to give regard to past delivery of housing in different HMCA's when making new allocations
- *Policy H9*. Members agreed that the change of policy wording for substituting 'should' for 'must', enabled a much stronger position.
- *Viability of green-space*. A Member queried whether developers would have the ability to buy out their greenspace requirements, and raised concerns over the impact on climate change. In responding, officers confirmed that all of the policy asks are viable at the date of the Development Plan. In addition, the Legal Officer explained that if a development hadn't been policy compliant in a particular area, that Members deem appropriate, it is at the discretion of Members whether they choose to forgo a policy to deliver that deemed

appropriate, or whether a planning application is refused/ or deferred until a later date.

- *Training and Support materials.* Officers confirmed sessions were going to be scheduled for Development Management colleagues to be briefed on policies in regard to the CSSR, including Policy H10.

The Chair summarised by re-iterating the advanced position the Council are in with the adopted Site Allocations Plan (SAP), and having more than a 5 year housing land supply, which added significant weight when considering planning applications.

RESOLVED -

- a) To note the contents of the report, including the Executive Board report and its appendices (at Appendix 1), and the related discussions at the meeting on the progression of the Core Strategy Selective Review;
- b) That Executive Board be recommended to endorse adoption of the CSSR by Full Council.

18 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED-

- a) To note that the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 10th September 2019 has been CANCELLED;
- b) To note the date and time of the next meeting as Tuesday 15th October 2019 at 1.30pm.