

Report of the Director of City Development

Report to Council

Date: 12th November 2014

Subject: LDF Core Strategy Inspector's Report and Adoption

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| Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes All | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input 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 |

Summary of main issues

1. In aspiring to be the 'best city in the UK', the Core Strategy takes forward the spatial and land use aspects of the Vision for Leeds, City Priority Plans and the Best Council Plan (in particular, Objective 2: to 'Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth'). Integral to this approach, is the need to plan for the homes and jobs needed across the District in a sustainable manner.
2. Following the submission of the Plan for independent examination in April 2013 and the completion of a series of Hearing sessions (in July and October 2013 and May 2014) and public consultation on two sets of Main Modifications (Schedule 1: 12th March – 24th April 2014 and Schedule 2: 16th June – 25th July 2014), the City Council has now received the Inspector's Report. This is a significant and concluding step in the Core Strategy process, as subject to the inclusion of the Main Modifications, the Inspector (Mr Anthony Thickett) has considered all the matters before him and the supporting evidence base and has considered the Plan to be legally compliant and sound. Within this context, the Inspector has set the housing target for Leeds at 70,000 dwellings (net) for the Plan period. In arriving at this conclusion the Inspector has considered the latest 2012-based ONS projections but did not feel that further debate on these figures, "would lead to any clear and reliable conclusions regarding objectively assessed need" (Inspector's Report, Para. 11). Based upon this, and following consideration of the Inspector's Report and recommendations by Executive Board on 17th September 2014, the City Council is now in a position to formally adopt the Plan (consistent with the adoption

procedures required under the Local Development Framework Regulations and the Council's constitution).

3. At its meeting on 17th September, the Executive Board considered the Inspector's Report, including his recommendations and reasons, and recommends to Council that it adopts the Core Strategy (as submitted for examination and with modifications).

Recommendations

Following the Executive Board recommendation (17th September) Council is recommended to:-

- 1 Adopt the Leeds Core Strategy (as submitted for examination and with the main modifications recommended by the Inspector and the additional minor modifications proposed) pursuant to Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to adopt the Leeds Core Strategy as recommended by Executive Board on 17th September 2014.
- 1.2 On 5 September and following his examination into the Leeds Core Strategy, the Inspector provided the Council with his report setting out his assessment of the Plan. In particular he considered whether the Core Strategy's preparation complied with the duty to co-operate, whether the Core Strategy is sound and whether it is compliant with the legal requirements. His conclusion was that the Council had satisfied the duty to co-operate and that subject to a number of main modifications set out in Appendix 2 to his report, the Plan is both sound and legally compliant.
- 1.3 For the purposes of Council, a consolidated version of the Core Strategy document has been prepared. This version of the document contains all of the subsequent changes post submission and examination. Highlighted in the document in blue, are the main modifications required by the Inspector, and which he considers are necessary to make the Plan sound. Within this context, the Inspector has set the housing target for Leeds at 70,000 dwellings (net) for the Plan period. In arriving at this conclusion the Inspector has considered the latest 2012-based ONS projections but did not feel that further debate on these figures, "would lead to any clear and reliable conclusions regarding objectively assessed need" (Inspector's Report, Para. 11). If the Council resolves to adopt the Core Strategy it must include these main modifications. It is not possible to make any further amendment to these modifications at this stage. The document also incorporates a series of additional modifications to the Plan, highlighted in green. These reflect changes considered by the Inspector through the examination process to be 'minor', together with grammatical corrections, clarifying maps and factual updates, post examination. These additional modifications do not materially affect the Policies in the Core Strategy (when read together with the main modifications) but are recommended to Council as appropriate changes which improve the clarity and accuracy of the Plan. It should be noted also, that a consequence of Core Strategy adoption, will be the need to update the Development Plan Policies Map (formerly the UDP Proposals Map). The Map will need to be updated to reflect spatial designations included within the Core Strategy (for example the extent of Green Infrastructure, Spatial Policy 13), as well as deleting any UDP Policy designations which have been deleted or changed as a result of Core Strategy adoption (for example the boundaries of 'S2' Centres).
- 1.4 Appended to this report are :-
- A copy of the report to Executive Board of 17 September 2014 which sets out more fully the main issues.
 - A copy of the Inspector's report and appendices

- A copy of the consolidated Core Strategy document, incorporating the Inspector's main modifications highlighted in blue and additional modifications in green.
- A copy of the final EIA (EDIC) (Reported to Executive Board 17th September).

It should be noted that, all of the technical work in support of the Core Strategy, including the Sustainability Appraisal, Appropriate Assessment and wider evidence base (including the Strategic Housing Market Assessment etc.), has previously been made available via the Examination web pages.

2 Background information

2.1 See Core Strategy Executive Board report 17th September 2014.

3 Main issues

3.1 See Core Strategy Executive Board report 17th September 2014.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 See Core Strategy Executive Board report 17th September 2014.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 See Core Strategy Executive Board report 17th September 2014.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 See Core Strategy Executive Board report 17th September 2014.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 See Core Strategy Executive Board report 17th September 2014.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 See Core Strategy Executive Board report 17th September 2014.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 See Core Strategy Executive Board report 17th September 2014.

5 Conclusions

5.1 See Core Strategy Executive Board report 17th September 2014.

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 Following the Executive Board recommendation (17th September) Council is recommended to:-

Adopt the Leeds Core Strategy (as submitted for examination and with the main modifications recommended by the Inspector and the additional minor modifications proposed) pursuant to Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 There are no background documents as the relevant associated documentation is all available as published works (see above, para.4.1). These include: a comprehensive set of the Core Strategy evidence base documents submitted for independent Examination which incorporate, the Core Strategy document at each stage, Reports of Consultation and Sustainability Appraisal Reports for each key stage, together with technical documents and Background papers (including the Duty to Co-operate Background paper). Included also are Equality Impact Assessment screening documents (EDIC), prepared at each key stage, together with specific EDIC screening documents relating to policy modifications associated with Affordable Housing and Gypsies Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (GT & TS), in response to issues raised by the Inspector. These documents are available from: www.leeds.gov.uk/ldf (Follow the link 'Core strategy Introduction' under the related pages tabs).

¹ 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.