

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

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

**Date: 22 November 2017**

**Subject: Scrutiny 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**

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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. Terms of reference for the inquiry were agreed on the 19 July 2017.

- 1.3 In the UK local planning authorities have the responsibility for the preparation of the Local Plan (Development Plans with a 15 year time frame and the determination of planning applications via the Development Management process. In Leeds the Local Plan is comprised of a series of documents including the Core Strategy (adopted 2014), the Natural Resources and Waste local plan (adopted 2013), the Aire Valley Leeds Area Action (adoption anticipated November 2017) and the Site Allocations Plan (adoption anticipated 2018). Once 'made', Neighbourhood Plans will also form part of the development plan.
- 1.4 In providing a strategic planning framework for allocation Plans, the Leeds Core Strategy sets out a series of interrelated objectives, strategic and thematic policies, based around the principles of sustainable development. It should be emphasised also that with the context of national planning guidance, the Core Strategy is a spatial plan, which is seeking to make provision for the overall scale and distribution of regeneration and growth across the District, whilst seeking to manage environmental resources and meet social objectives (such as aspects of public health and deprivation). Key components of the Core Strategy include:
- Supporting the provision of community infrastructure that is tailored to meet the needs of the community including high quality health, education and training, cultural and recreation, and community facilities and spaces.
  - The provision of new educational facilities to meet increased demand either through extensions to existing establishments or through the building of new schools in areas of housing growth or adjacent to them.
  - That new development should be located in accessible locations that are adequately served by existing or programmed highways, by public transport and with safe and secure access for pedestrians, cyclists and people with impaired mobility.
- 1.5 The following information has been considered by the Scrutiny Board during previous inquiry sessions in July, September and October.
- The origins and definition of the term, "Sustainable Development".
  - The definition of "Sustainable Development", as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
  - The Councils strategic planning framework
  - Housing numbers, the requirement to demonstrate a 5 Year Land Supply, the issue of viability, and local authority influence to compel developers to build out existing planning permissions, particularly on brownfield land.
  - CIL and S106
- 1.6 To facilitate the provision of evidence for this, the fourth session of the inquiry, local organisations, who have the desire to support and influence sustainable development, were invited to contribute. The Sustainability Research Institute, responded and has made a written contribution to the inquiry which is appended. A representative of the institute will be in attendance at the meeting to expand on the written information provided. Representatives from Leeds Property Forum (Leeds Chamber of Commerce) will also be in attendance.
- 1.7 Both organisations have been provided with the terms of reference for the inquiry and have been advised about the focus of the inquiry so far. They were informed that the Scrutiny Board would be interested in their views about the actual delivery

of infrastructure and services that supports the physical and social needs of people and communities in Leeds, if this is sufficient, and if not what needs to change.

## **2. Recommendation**

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

- i. Consider the information contained within this report and presented at the meeting, and make recommendations as deemed appropriate.