

Development Plan Panel

Tuesday, 15th May, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor P Gruen in the Chair

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

76 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

77 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

The agenda contained no exempt information.

78 Late Items

There were no formal late items of business added to the agenda, however the panel received the following supplementary document to be considered as part of the Authority Monitoring Report (item 7):

- Updates since dispatch

79 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

No declarations were made.

80 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Latty. The Head of Development Management and the Chief Planning Officer also submitted their apologies.

81 Minutes

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Development Plan Panel meeting held on 17 April 2018 be approved.

82 Matters Arising

Minute 72 Site Allocations Plan Revised Submission Draft Update

- The Group Manager, Policy and Plans, confirmed that a Judicial Review sought by Thornhill Estates had been rejected and consequently a formal High Court hearing was scheduled to take place on 21st June 2018 to challenge this decision. The Legal Officer confirmed that, as an interested party, the Council would be unable to recover costs.
- The Group Manager, Policy and Plans, informed Members that following the submission of the revised Draft Plan, Officers have responded to initial questions from the Inspector.

- The Chair proposed that a seminar for new Councillors (but open to all) and individual Ward Member briefings for the Site Allocations Plan (SAP) be arranged.

Minute 73 Core Strategy Selective Review – Members noted the intention to bring the CSSR to the DPP and Executive Board meetings in June, followed by Council in July. It was noted that DPP was now proposed to meet on 20th June 2018.

Minute 74 National Planning Policy Framework – The Panel noted that the 24th July 2018 was the anticipated release date for the new NPPF.

RESOLVED – That the proposed Seminar and Ward Member briefings, be arranged.

83 Authority Monitoring Report - Local Development Framework

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 Planning Policy Officer introduced the report and presented the highlights of the 2016/17 period to Members of the Board, including:

- The majority of development in the city centre over the course of the year had taken place north of the river, but Officers expected more development on the South Bank to be presented in the 2017/18 AMR.
- Housing delivery has increased but is still below the Core Strategy target.
- 85% of housing (new and conversions) was on brown field land.
- The 2016/17 period saw a significant increase in retail development, likely to be mainly due to the opening of Victoria Gate.
- Transport developments included the opening of Kirkstall Forge Train Station and Elland Road Park and Ride.

An update sheet was circulated. The Panel noted a correction to Indicator 7 which should read “Identified sites” (not windfall) in respect of New Build and Conversions.

Members were informed of intentions to upload the final AMR to the Leeds City Council website. Members felt that more could be done ensure the AMR is accessible to all, and also requested measures reflecting expected progress along with an executive summary of the AMR be included. Officers confirmed that an executive summary would be produced and circulated to Members for comments.

Members sought clarity regarding the increase in retail development, and were given confirmation that the figures did not reflect net gain as the Council does not monitor high street retail vacancies or losses. However, Officers recognised that all indicators reflect the point in time in which they were created five years ago, and need to be regularly reassessed to ensure that they are useful.

Members had heard of issues with the District Heating Scheme. Officers confirmed that any issues with the District Heating Scheme would be reported in the 2017/18

AMR. The Legal Officer confirmed that comments had been passed on to relevant Officers regarding disengagement.

Members sought to understand if the use of Housing Delivery figures could be simplified for non-expert readers to illustrate slower building rates, however, Officers confirmed that measures were defined by National Government. Members were keen that the AMR included the number of extant planning permissions not built out and information regarding the speed of build as this can be slow. A concern was also expressed about the resources available to undertake the monitoring work, particularly in relation to Indicator 4 (Housing Market Characteristic Areas).

Members requested more information on specific projects including Air Pollution. Officers confirmed that there is ongoing work focused around Air Quality, but this is not just a planning process. Officers noted the progress towards Clean Air Zones which is a significant piece of work and is expected to have great impact. Members were also informed of current projects to encourage walking and cycling, particularly in Wards with high air pollution which are closer to the city centre, such as Burmantofts and Richmond Hill.

Additionally, the Panel supported a suggestion to include an Executive Summary in order to better communicate the good news stories within the document; provide a narrative reflecting on the expected outcomes and comparable data with other core cities.

RESOLVED –

- a) To note the contents of the report and the comments made during discussion.
- b) To note the intention to include the suggested updates and amendments within the AMR prior to publication.
- c) That the sessions requested by Members, be arranged.

84 Work Programme

RESOLVED – To note the following comments for action:

- a) Suggestions at today's Panel meeting to be incorporated
- b) Negotiated Stopping Site for Gypsies and Travellers to be given a Panel date, subject to the availability of relevant Housing Services Officers.

85 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note the date and time of the next meeting is now proposed as Tuesday 20th June 2018 at 10:30am.