

Report of Director of City Development

Report to Development Plan Panel

Date: 2nd July 2012

Subject: Leeds Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) Site assessments

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): City wide	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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

Summary of main issues

1. A report on the scope of the Site Allocations DPD was brought to Development Plan Panel on 6th March 2012, and agreed at Executive Board on 16th May 2012. Leeds Site Allocations DPD will cover specific topic areas of: Retail, Housing, Employment and Greenspace (PPG17). Consistent with the overall scale of growth and strategy approach, a selective Green Belt review will be necessary to meet housing and employment requirements identified in the Core Strategy as appropriate.
2. The importance of local community and local ward member input in the consultation process has been emphasised.
3. The Council has received many expressions of interest from communities wishing to prepare their own neighbourhood plan. Council officers propose to share our methodology to site assessment with interested communities. This should ensure a consistent approach to assessing sites, and transparency of information.

Recommendation

4. Development Plan Panel are requested to note the proposed site assessment details attached to this report at appendices 1-3, and be aware that this information may be made available to communities undertaking preparation of Neighbourhood Plans, to enable a clear, transparent process and a consistent approach to site assessment.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make members aware of the proposed site assessment details attached to this report, and be aware that this information may be made available to communities undertaking preparation of Neighbourhood Plans, to enable a clear, transparent process and a consistent approach to site assessment, should they wish to use the same or a similar approach.

2 Background information

- 2.1 On 16th May 2012, Executive Board approved the scope of Leeds Site Allocations DPD, which will cover specific topic areas of: Retail, Housing, Employment and Greenspace (PPG17) and incorporate a selective Green Belt review.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The process and stages of preparation of the DPD will involve a continual process of engagement with the public including local communities, developers, parish councils and local ward members. In particular, where communities are preparing neighbourhood plans, it makes sense to share our approach with them because emerging ideas from neighbourhood plans should help inform the Site Allocations DPD and using a consistent approach to assessing sites should help communities and ensure transparency in work being undertaken.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

The Site Allocations DPD will form part of the statutory development plan process/the Local Development Framework and will be subject to public consultation throughout the various stages of production prior to adoption in accordance with statutory planning requirements. Similarly, neighbourhood plans, once adopted, will form part of the statutory development plan. Sharing of information in assessing sites will therefore be mutually beneficial.

5. Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 5.1 Any proposals within the Site Allocations DPD will be subject to a screening exercise to establish the need for an Equalities Impact Assessment.

6. Council policies and City Priorities

- 6.1 Policies and proposals/site specific allocations within the Site Allocations DPD will need to reflect the City priorities identified in the Vision for Leeds and the Local Development Framework, in particular the delivery of the Core Strategy long term spatial vision, objectives and policies.

7. Resources and value for money

- 7.1 Sharing of the site assessment approach with communities producing neighbourhood plans represents value for money in that it could reduce time and resources spent developing alternative assessments.

8. Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 8.1 The Site Allocations DPD will follow the statutory development plan process (Local Development Framework).

9. Risk Management

- 9.1 Transparency and sharing of our assessment approach will aid consistency in producing plans by different communities elsewhere. Sharing of information in assessing sites will therefore be mutually beneficial.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 Development Plan Panel are requested to note the proposed site assessment details attached to this report, and be aware that this information may be made available to communities undertaking preparation of Neighbourhood Plans, to enable a clear, transparent process and a consistent approach to site assessment.

11. Background documents

- 11.1 Executive Board Report 16th May 2012
- 11.2 Appendix 1: Site Proforma
- 11.3 Appendix 2: Green Belt Review Assessment Methodology
- 11.4 Appendix 3: Sustainability appraisal framework