

## **Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)**

**1 November 2012**

### **Local Development Framework – Core Strategy**

#### **Comments to Executive Board**

The Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture) met on 1 November to consider the Core Strategy, as part of the council's budget and policy framework.

The Scrutiny Board welcomed the opportunity to comment and would ask the Executive Board to take account of the following observations in finalising its recommendation to Council on 14 November.

#### General

Members of the Board welcomed and broadly supported the strategy and the proposed changes due to be presented to the Executive Board on 7 November. They endorsed the need to progress the strategy to adoption as soon as possible.

#### Public Health

The Board received evidence from Councillor John Illingworth, Chair of the Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care), including the attached note summarising the views arising from the Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care Board's discussion of the core strategy on 24 October (Appendix 1).

The Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture) welcomed the changes already proposed in the document to take account of public health, but also endorsed the submission of this note to the Executive Board alongside its own comments.

#### Key Diagram

The Board expressed concern about the potential for confusion and future dispute arising from the current format of the key diagram, particularly in relation to the indicative depiction of potential new housing locations.

Having been informed that the diagram was a required element of the strategy, Members welcomed the support of the Executive Member and officer present to the proposal to add an appropriate note to the diagram and to emphasise the overriding importance of policy SP7 (Distribution of Housing Land and Allocations).

## Employment

Last year, the Scrutiny Board carried out an inquiry into maximising powers to promote, influence and create local employment and skills opportunities. One of the Board's key recommendations was to include employment and skills obligations in planning applications over a certain threshold.

### Recommendation 3

That the Director of City Development sets the following threshold to trigger S106 Employment and Skills obligations -

- Retail Developments of over 2000m<sup>2</sup>,
- Residential developments of over 100 units,
- All developments over 10,000m<sup>2</sup>

We asked for reassurance that this recommendation, which has been accepted by the Director, is reflected in the core strategy.

## Infrastructure

It is suggested that the definition of infrastructure to include transport, educational and health infrastructure be made consistent in SP6 i) and H2 i) for the avoidance of doubt.

## Child Friendly City, green space and allotments

Members of the Board felt that Leeds' ambition to be a Child Friendly City should be given greater prominence in the document.

In addition, it was requested that more specific reference was made to allotments as an element of green space.

The Board was grateful for the Executive Member's proposal to bring forward proposed wording changes to the Executive Board meeting which would reflect these issues clearly in the narrative.

## Proof reading

It was stressed that any future such documents need to be properly proof read before going out for consultation.