

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY

Meeting: 5 June 2007

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillors John Abrams, Sue Derbyshire, Philip Harding, Kevin Hogg, Syd Lloyd, John Smith, David White and Derek Whitehead.

Also in attendance

Bruce Child – Policy Officer, Environment & Economy Directorate
Dave Bryant – Policy Manager, Environment & Economy Directorate
Zoe Hodson – Policy Officer, Environment & Economy Directorate
Duncan Laird – Policy Officer, Environment & Economy Directorate
Richard Leyshon – Head of Transportation & Planning, Environment & Economy Directorate
Steve Johnson – Policy Officer, Environment & Economy Directorate
Jim McMahon – Assistant Director (Transportation & Planning), Environment & Economy Directorate
Chris O'Brien – Policy Officer, Environment & Economy Directorate
Sue Stevenson – Policy Manager, Environment & Economy Directorate
Richard Wood – Policy Officer, Environment & Economy Directorate
Tara Hughes – Health & Environment Co-ordinator, Environment & Economy Directorate
Damian Eaton – Democratic Services Officer, Chief Executive's Directorate

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor Sue Derbyshire be elected Chair of the Working Party until the next Annual Council meeting.

Councillor Sue Derbyshire in the Chair

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor Kevin Hogg be appointed Vice-Chair of the Working Party until the next Annual Council meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. CORE STRATEGY

(i) Council Meeting Procedure Rules

RESOLVED - That the Council Meeting Procedure Rules be adopted in so far as they relate to Committees and Working Parties.

(ii) Purpose and Content of a Core Strategy

Dave Bryant (Policy Manager, Environment & Economy Directorate) attended the meeting and made a presentation on the content and purpose of a Core Strategy and the process for its preparation including a proposed timetable.

It was further reported that the evidence gathering and consultation processes were a vital component of the process as some other authorities who had already submitted their Core Strategies had subsequently had them rejected by the Inspector as being 'unsound' as a result of failings in these areas.

In response to a Councillor's question, it was confirmed that Stockport's current progress toward the submission of its Development Plan Portfolio was on a par with other local authorities in the Greater Manchester area.

RESOLVED - That the presentation be noted.

5. CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

Representatives of the Corporate Director, Environment & Economy submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the scope of the spatial objectives, issues and options detailed in the draft Issues and Options paper.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- There was a need to ensure that Objectives detailed in the paper provided challenges for Stockport to achieve rather than statements of where Stockport would like to be in the future.
- There was the potential for current and proposed Government policy initiatives to disrupt some of the proposed objectives.
- The questions posed during the consultation needed to be tailored toward the specific audience being targeted in order to achieve meaningful statistical results.
- It was commented that the document was intended to provide a broad framework rather than comment on the appropriate land use for specific sites.
- There was a need to establish the level of renewable energy that the authority could require for new homes.
- The need for a housing market survey was recognised, and Stockport would be undertaking this in conjunction with the other local authorities in Greater Manchester.
- Councillors commented that it was important to maintain the phased release of land for housing in order to retain interest from potential developers.
- There was a recognised conflict between existing land uses in the town centre, in particular the juxtaposition of residential properties to licensed premises.
- The options in respect of 'Delivering Safe, Reliable and Accessible Transport Networks' needed to be graded according to those which could be delivered by the Council, and those which were in the gift of external organisations.
- The demands of developers and the general public were often on conflict and needed to be managed appropriately.
- The results of the audit of cultural activity being undertaken in the Borough needed to be disseminated to members of the Working Party as they became available to inform further discussion in relation to access to facilities, recreation

and open space.

- It was acknowledged that there was currently a shortfall in the availability of leisure facilities during the day which needed to be addressed.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT

A representative of the Corporate Director, Environment & Economy submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining the draft framework for the appraisal of the sustainability of the Core Strategy, including its spatial options and policies.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

7. CONSULTATION PROGRAMME

A representative of the Corporate Director, Environment & Economy submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the proposed arrangements to engage with stakeholders, including Councillors, the general public, the Local Strategic Partnership, developers, statutory bodies and other interest groups.

Councillors commented on the need to ensure that the consultation events were appropriately promoted to engage with as many and as wide a range of people as possible. It was also commented that consultation needed to be audience specific to ensure that respondents were able to fully appreciate the questions being asked.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED - That the Corporate Director, Environment & Economy, in consultation with the Chair, be requested to determine the date of the next meeting of the Working Party.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.