

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 MAY 2009

Present: Councillors P Connolly, C Whiteside, G Scurrah, W Southward,
M McVeigh, C Giel

Officers: J Hughes, Regeneration Strategy Manager; C Hoban, Principal Planning Policy Officer; V Gregg, Planning Policy Assistant; R Black, Senior Planning Technical Officer; N Hayhurst, Senior Planning Officer; R Carrol, Planning Officer

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 21 January 2009

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

2. Apologies

No apologies received.

3. Arrangement of Agenda

Agenda to be followed.

4. Items for which the Press and Public will be Excluded

No items for which the press and public are excluded.

5. LDF Issues and Options Report

The LDF Issues and Options Consultation Document was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report will be placed on deposit alongside the LDF Issues and Options Consultation Document.

Members raised the following points in relation to the LDF Issues and Options Consultation Document:

The timescales listed on page 11 of the Consultation Document need to be amended to reflect the slight delay in the timetable.

Some Members expressed concerns that the timescale was tight, JH informed members that the timetable of production reflects that in the LDS which was altered following advice from Government Office North West (GONW).

It was noted that adherence to the timetable will be dependent on factors such as the number of responses received and the time taken to process these.

Effective promotion of the Consultation document was felt to be vital to encourage responses.

Pg 10 – Evidence Base Section – it would be useful to include anticipated production dates for those documents marked ‘in preparation’.

Cllr McVeigh noted that he had attended a meeting where GONW had acknowledged slippage in other Local Authority’s LDF programmes due to staffing shortages.

Section 2 - Spatial Portrait

JH noted that the Copeland Borough Council planning area is different to the locality areas from the West Cumbria Community Strategy which includes the Lake District National Park. JH noted that our LDF will have policies which exclude the LDNP but we need to recognise that the communities in the Copeland LDNP area look to settlements in our planning remit and we should be therefore involved in the LDNPA LDF.

As an aside it was also noted that the LDNPA was undertaking a further consultation on its Preferred Options stage through May and early June.

Members requested larger copies of the locality area map be sent out.

Cllr Whiteside commented that the LDNP were proosing a more flexible attitude to affordable housing in their consultation and we should have an opportunity to support this. JH noted that as the Housing and Planning Authority, we have to work closely with the LDNP.

Following comments on the retail element of the document JH noted that the West Cumbria Retail Study identified Workington as a focus for retail and a more specialist function for Whitehaven reflecting the economic and geographic situation.

Pg 20 Drivers of Change – this section identifies the drivers of change likely to be acting on Copeland.

Cllr Whiteside noted that a fourth driver – economic and demographic changes, not to be included within the document but be considered when reviewing responses. JH noted that the Britain’s Energy Coast Masterplan identifies these drivers.

Section 4 - Environmental Protection & Enhancement

Pg 57 – Conservation Areas, Cllr Whiteside asked if a reference to Article 4 could be added to paragraph 4.40 or the options section of when Article 4 could be less restrictive.

Section 5 - Sustainable Settlements

Cllr Whiteside commented that the Question regarding services in settlements may be interpreted differently by readers.

An Audit of Settlements is planned.

Pg 75 add 'attractive' after 'high quality'

Pg 76 – add to last bullet point reference to 'disabled access and implementation'

JH noted that following the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) call for sites, approximately 200 sites had been put forward for assessment. A panel has been set up to assess sites before they are put forward for consideration in the Site Allocation DPD.

The LDF Issues and Options Consultation document will also include a call for sites which provides an opportunity for sites to be put forward for consideration for various uses, including housing.

A list of the sites which have been put forward will be available on the Council's website and at the locations where the document will be placed on deposit (Council offices and libraries in the Borough).

Pg 83 – it was requested that the threshold should have both number of dwellings and size of the site.

Pg 84 Housing mix on affordable proportion of a site as market mix of a site.

Cllr Whiteside asked if there should be a question regarding a rule for mix of affordable housing.

Section 6 - Economic Opportunity and Regeneration

Cllr Giel requested that web-links be made available in an appendices for all Reports/Studies etc referred to within the document.

Cllr Giel also requested that a telephone number be provided at the front of the document.

It needs to be stated that references to other plans, strategies and documents in the LDF will be subject to change so as to reflect the latest versions available.

Pg 109 – it was requested that it is made clear that the Infrastructure Planning Commission will make the decision relating to nuclear new build.

Section 7 – Accessibility and Transport

Cllr Whiteside declared an interest in the section of the document regarding Telecommunications and ICT Infrastructure.

Members agreed to go forward with the document for consultation, with the comments as mentioned above added.

6. Programme for Consultation

A Consultation Plan was circulated to Members.

It was noted that Neighbourhood Forums and Parish Council's should be given the opportunity for members of the Planning Policy Team to attend their meetings.

7. Signing off the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Members agreed to sign off the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for consultation alongside the LDF Issues and Options Consultation document.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be to report back on responses received from the LDF Issues and Options Consultation. There was no date set, however it was expected to be sometime in July/August.

Cllr Whiteside asked that Members thank Cllr Connolly for his work on the LDF Working Party at the end of the civic year.