

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2009

Present: Councillors P Connolly, C Whiteside, A Mossop, G Scurrah, W Southward

Officers: J Hughes, Regeneration Strategy Manager; C Hoban, Principal Planning Policy Officer; V Gregg, Planning Policy Assistant; R Black, Senior Planning Technical Officer; S Blacker, Planning Officer; Martin Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; Pat Graham, Head of Development Operations

Anita Longworth & Lyndsey Regan – Scott Wilson

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 27 November 2008

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

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor C Giel

3. Arrangement of Agenda

It was agreed to follow the Agenda circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that future meetings should start at 10.30am.

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

It was queried if Agenda items 5, 6, 7 & 8 were required to be in Part 2 of the Agenda. Martin Jepson confirmed that Agenda item 4 requests that members consider if any of the items require consideration with the press and public excluded, it was agreed that no items were required to be in Part 2.

5. Consultation Statement for Stakeholder Events on 26 November 2008

The Consultation Statement was circulated with the Agenda prior to the meeting and provided a summary of responses to the two Stakeholder Events held on 26 November 2008.

An Officers Working Group has been established following the internal Stakeholder Event. It was requested that a joint meeting be held for the two groups. The next LDF Working Party will be held at the start of April and prior to this an LDF Officers Working Party will take place in March. It was agreed to invite Officers from the Officers Working Group to the next LDF Working Party meeting. The next meeting

of the LDF Working Party will require Members to make decisions on the Issues and Options stage and a formal meeting will be required.

It was noted that the Stakeholder Events were well attended and resulted in interesting discussions.

6. Core Strategy Visioning Issues and Options Generation and Appraisal

Anita Longworth from Scott Wilson gave a presentation on the Core Strategy Visioning Issues and Options generation and appraisal (a full copy of the presentation for items 6 & 7 can be found in Appendix A).

A Core Strategy Visioning Issues and Options paper was circulated with the Agenda prior to the meeting.

Questions/comments arising from the presentation:

Cllr Whiteside noted that it was good to recognise the development of knowledge based industries in the area and this should run throughout the document.

With regards to transportation and connectivity the same issues keep occurring. These issues need to be raised in the LDF process and appropriate policies put in place to address them.

Pat Graham - Spatial Portrait needs to contain information regarding water quality, crime and health. It was agreed to add these into the Spatial Vision section of the Core Strategy document, it was noted that they were included in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

Pat Graham queried if the LDF Vision and the West Cumbria Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Vision had to be the same. Anita Longworth did not think the two Visions were required to be the same but had to be consistent. Cllr Whiteside also felt this was the case.

There are too many objectives. This has been recognised and rationalised to 14 so far.

Martin Jepson noticed different wording on the PowerPoint presentation to the original document circulated with the Minutes. 'Sustainable economy' had been changed to 'prosperous economy', Anita confirmed the wording was changed to reflect the Corporate Plan.

Cllr Scurrah asked for more emphasis on economic growth from manufacturing within the document.

The Council's Corporate Plan needs to be included within the document.

Pat Graham noted that climate change is a major issue and a strong emphasis needs to be placed on it within the document. Also it needs to be made clearer that the LDF provides a 'positive planning framework'.

With regards to cross boundary issues, meetings will be held with the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), Allerdale Borough Council and Barrow Borough Council. Cllr Branney was put forward as a useful contact for the LDNPA .

Para 3.3.31 Locality working approach – has been questioned if we need to develop objectives for each locality further – this will be informed through our evidence base.

Martin Jepson confirmed that the changes to Parish boundaries should be finalised by May 2009.

Anita Longworth confirmed that the comments made at today's meeting will be incorporated into the second draft of the Visioning document.

7. Presentation Highlighting Emerging Key Findings in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report to date (Scott Wilson)

Lyndsey Regan gave a presentation on the Sustainability Scoping Report (a full copy of the presentation for items 6 & 7 can be found in Appendix A).

Lyndsey circulated the Sustainability Appraisal Framework for comment.

Maps need to be included in documents showing locality areas. Maps would also be useful displayed at future LDF Working Party meetings.

Cllr Mossop questioned how the reduction in car dependency (Objective 17, Sustainability Appraisal Framework document) could be achieved. This reflects national government policy. Ron Black noted that we monitor this in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and through the siting of new residential development accessibility to public transport has improved.

Sustainability Appraisal – Next Stages:

- The Scoping Report will go out to consultation at the end of January to statutory consultees: Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency.
- Alongside the Issues and Options document, the Scoping Report will go out to public consultation in May/June.
- The Scoping Report will also be placed on the Council's website and letters will be sent to everyone on the LDF mailing list, in order to give other organisations the opportunity to comment.
- Amendments will be made following consultation and a final copy will be published June/July.
- The first stage of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (Scoping) has been completed.

Core Strategy – Next Stages:

- Prepare Issues and Options Consultation Paper – February / April 2009
- Report to LDF Working Party- April 2009
- Issues and Options Public Consultation - May / June 2009

A strategy for the May/June consultation was discussed. Neighbourhood Forums should be utilised. The stakeholder consultation was thought to have been successful and a good way to engage people in the process.

Members commented that the timetable in the Local Development Scheme was challenging, John reminded members that the timetable was amended to incorporate comments made by GONW.

It was noted that the budget needs to incorporate financial resources required for consultation.

8. Annual Monitoring Report 2007/08

We are required to produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and submit to GONW by 31 Dec each year. The Copeland AMR 07/08 was submitted to GONW on the 23rd December 2008. John asked that the group formally thank Ron Black, Vikki Gregg and Matt Bagnall for producing the AMR 2007/08.

The AMR tracks the implementation of Local Plan policies and objectives and shows over the last few years improvements have been made.

Cllr Peter Connolly requested that the Planning Panel be sent a full version of the AMR. The AMR Executive Summary should be sent to every Councillor.

Both the AMR and Local Development Scheme will be published on our website.

Comments regarding the AMR 07/08:

It was noted that some of the document was out of date, for example unemployment figures. John Hughes informed Members that the AMR covers the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 as stated by the Local Development Framework Regulations (England) 2004. This is explained within the document. It was requested this was added to the Executive Summary.

Martin Jepson asked if members were required to make a formal decision on saving policies. John advised members that they had previously agreed to the principle of saving policies as appropriate, through the LDS.

9. Reminder of Request for Members to provide Contact Details of Additional Consultees that should be involved in the process

It was requested that Whitehaven Community Trust, Home North West and the West Cumbria Federation of Small Businesses be added to the database; the Diocese of Carlisle be amended to the Diocese of Lancaster and the Cooperative be added if appropriate.

10. Any Other Business & Date of Next Meeting

Pat Graham had a copy of the Inspector's Report for Newcastle City LDF Core Strategy. This was considered unsound by the Inspector for a number of reasons including an insufficient evidence base and lack of alignment with RSS. Pat to circulate to Planning Policy Team for information.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd April 2009 at 9:30am.

The meeting closed at 11.50am.