

## **Copeland Local Development Framework Working Party Meeting**

### **Minutes of Meeting Held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 5.00pm – Bainbridge Room**

**Present:** Councillor G Clements (Chair)  
Councillor S Haraldsen  
Councillor D Riley  
Councillor G Sunderland  
Councillor M McVeigh  
John Hughes - Strategic Planning Manager (JH)  
Alison Earnshaw - Planning Officer – Notes (AE)  
Peter Shannon – Allerdale Planning Policy  
Richard Lambing – GVA  
Anthony Pollard – GVA

- 1. Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011** – Cllr Riley asked if any progress had been made on his suggestion to have a ‘pop up’ from the home page of the Copeland website asking if people want to take part in the Whitehaven Town Centre and Harbourside SPD consultation. Officers in the Policy team had spoken to Communications who have control over such matters. (NB the consultation finished on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.)

**ACTION: JH**

Members asked if it would be necessary to supply a Copeland response to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation. Copeland officers had contributed to the joint response coordinated and submitted by Cumbria CC but JH undertook to ensure that additional Copeland comments would be submitted alongside the County Council joint response following discussion with the Director of People and Places and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Working Party.

**ACTION: JH**

Action from previous minutes: JH confirmed that as instructed he had written to Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding its involvement in the preparation of the LDF documents. Given the roles of the all-party LDF Working Party plus the Executive in making recommendations to Full Council on these matters further committee work seemed unnecessary.

- 2. Apologies** - Cllr J Downie, Cllr A Norwood
- 3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests in Agenda Items** – None
- 4. Order of Agenda Items**

Agenda items to be followed as laid out.

**5. Items for which the Press and Public will be Excluded**

No items for which the press and public are excluded.

**6. Copeland LDF Progress**

**a. Presentation by Richard Laming and Anthony Pollard of GVA – Blueprint and Associated Work: Scope and Emerging Issues for the LDF**

Richard and Anthony presented the work that GVA are currently doing to help the Council prepare the LDF. The work is split into three parts; the Economic Blueprint, the LDF Evidence and Spatial Implications of that and the Socio-Economic Assessment. They explained what progress had been made on each piece of work and said that a “good draft” would be available by the end of December. Councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions.

**b. Cumbria Planning Group: Feedback from 5<sup>th</sup> October meeting**

Cllr McVeigh gave some background information about the Cumbria Planning Group, explaining that the group was made up of representatives from the 6 Districts, the LDNP and Cumbria County Council. Its purpose is to provide advice on planning, transport and housing. At the 5<sup>th</sup> October meeting house-builder Fred Story gave a talk on the work of the Cumbria LEP. Mr Story is a Board Member of the LEP and chairs its Housing and Planning Expert Group – The Council’s Director of People and Places represents Copeland on this group.

Also at the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct the Group had discussed the NPPF and Cllr McVeigh reported that there were a lot of concerns expressed across the political parties but interestingly the subject of Community Infrastructure Levy did not come up as a topic for discussion. JH said that it was not necessarily something that the Council would be recommended to sign up to. In due course the LDF will include a Planning Contributions Framework SPD which will deal with these matters in detail.

Cllr Sunderland suggested that it might be sensible to have a representative from the LDF Working Party sitting on the Planning and Housing Expert Group – possibly the Working Party’s Chair. This is unlikely to be available as the LEP has already appointed to all available places but the question will be raised. JH expressed his thanks to Chris Hoban for his good work explaining the NPPF.

**c. Design SPD: Scoping Paper**

Cllr McVeigh is the Council’s Design and Heritage Champion.

Cllr Haraldsen said that, whilst it was good to have design guidance, he was concerned that it could be used to force certain developments through. He would prefer to see short notes on design so that it is not an actual SPD that developers can use to argue against decisions made by Planning Panel.

Cllr Haraldsen asked AE to email a copy of the ‘Secure by Design’ SPG to him.

**ACTION: AE**

**d. LDF Programme discussion**

JH tabled a list of work still to do in the preparation of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPDs. He explained that some of this would need to be brought to the LDF Working Party over the next two months and that it would be important to prioritise what these items were in order to use the time left to best effect. The plan is to take the finished documents to Full Council in either February or March and, in that event, there would be a need for three more meetings of the Working Party in the meantime. Dates were suggested for these meetings but these will be confirmed in due course.

The meeting closed at 7pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....