

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee was held on 30 January 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor Clark (Chair), Councillors Elder, Jones, Mrs H Pearson, McPartland, Porley and Rehman.

OFFICIALS: J Bennington, P Clarke, C Davies, R G Long and P Slocombe.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee held on 19 December 2007 were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A report of the Director of Regeneration was presented which sought approval to the submission of the Middlesbrough Local Development Framework (LDF) Regeneration Development Plan Document (DPD) as outlined in Appendix B of the report, to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) for consideration.

The process for the preparation of the DPD, details of consultation and proposed changes to form the submission draft were set out in the report considered by Council on 9 January 2008 as shown in Appendix A of the report.

Specific reference was made to a number of changes to the Regeneration DPD for submission in particular: -

- a) Policies in relation to Greater Middlehaven had been redrafted to include more detail on the level and type of development to be provided, greater design guidance and further details on how and when proposals would be implemented.
- b) Housing Allocations had been updated to reflect changes to planning permissions and new developments. Owing to the rephrasing of some of the strategic sites it had been necessary to identify additional housing allocations, particularly for the early plan periods.
- c) The Town Centre boundary had been redrawn to include more of Greater Middlehaven and the University estate to help support development proposals for both areas and extension to the principal retail area to incorporate part of Cannon Park to facilitate retail growth.

The DPD had also been considered at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 21 January 2008. As confirmed at that meeting the specific issues raised with particular regard to linkages between the Town Centre and Middlehaven, and the regeneration of the Gresham area would be dealt with when more detailed plans such as the Greater Middlehaven Supplementary Planning Document and Gresham Neighbourhood Action Plan had been prepared at a later date.

The standard wording in the Regeneration DPD was that any development would need to be undertaken in accordance with an approved masterplan. A masterplan would need to be approved by the Council before any planning permission was granted for any constituent part of the development area. Any departure from the LDF would be referred to GONE.

It was noted that whilst the planning framework needed to provide sufficient guidance as to the level of development there needed to be sufficient flexibility to respond to changing requirements.

The report outlined the proposed consultation on the Regeneration DPD which would be carried out in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement.

Leading up to the Examination there would be a significant range of activities that would need to be rapidly progressed to meet with the timetable to examination which included: -

- the requirement to consult on alternative sites put forward by objectors;
- the preparation of proofs of evidence/statements for the Examination, setting out in more detail the Council's position on specific policy matters.

In order to ensure that the above was addressed it was proposed that delegated authority was given to the Director of Regeneration following consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration to make the necessary decisions. The LDF Member Working Group would be called as required to consider issues arising in respect of each of the above stages and would provide guidance to Officers on the approach to be taken.

ORDERED as follows: -

1. That the Local Development Framework Regeneration Development Plan Document be approved and submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
2. That the process of consultation as outlined in the report submitted be approved.
3. That future minor changes, regarding preparation of the Regeneration DPD be delegated to the Director of Regeneration following consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration in accordance with the process as outlined.

COUNCIL TAX BASE 2008/2009 CALCULATION

The Director of Resources submitted a report which sought approval to the setting of the Council Tax base for the financial year 2008/2009 as shown in Appendix A of the report submitted which had been calculated in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Approval was also sought to the setting of the Council Tax base for Nunthorpe, and Stainton and Thornton Parish Councils and authority to notify precepting authorities of its tax base.

The report outlined the method of calculation as specified in the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, which required the calculation to be approved before 31 January in the year preceding the relevant financial year.

The tax base was used by the Government to calculate the Revenue Support Grant due to each authority and as a base for local authorities to fix their actual Council Tax level.

ORDERED as follows: -

1. That the Council Tax base for 2008/2009 be approved as 39,772.
2. That the Council Tax base for 2008/2009 for the parish of Nunthorpe as 1,942 and the parish of Stainton & Thornton as 566 be approved.
3. That the Police Authority, the Fire Authority and the Parish Councils be notified of the 2008/2009 Council Tax Base accordingly.