

LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP

A meeting of the Local Plan Working Group was held on 22 September 2016.

PRESENT: Councillors Cole, C M Rooney and N J Walker

OFFICERS: J Bell, P Clarke and K Whitwell

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bloundele and Harvey.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made.

16/1 ROLE/PURPOSE OF THE GROUP

PC explained that the adoption of the Local Plan is a Council decision and as such MWG will contribute to the preparation of the Local Plan throughout the process.

PC highlighted the political aspects of adopting a LP and therefore Councillor inclusion is of the highest importance.

KW further re-iterated Councillor involvement can aid in the engagement and involvement of the wider public.

16/2 LOCAL PLAN REVIEW TIMETABLE

PC explained expected time table for delivery of Local Plan:

Issues - Oct 2016
Preferred Options - Feb 2017
Publication - Aug 2017
Submission - Nov 2017
Examination - Feb 2018
Adoption - June 2018

16/3 LOCAL PLAN ISSUES

PC gave a presentation explaining the need for a Local Plan review and the issues that are relevant to Middlesbrough Council residents.

The issues identified as part of the review are:

Housing (including Gypsy and Traveller)

PC emphasised the importance of the HLP and the success in terms of housing completions in comparison to earlier years.

Cllr Rooney determined that social housing needs to be addressed at the early stages of the LP.

Economic Growth

PC advised on the economic activity rates/index of multiple deprivation and full time earnings by residence; and explained the need to identify what we need to focus on to increase economic employment growth.

Cllrs were surprised by the low figures and Cllr Walker outlined concerns with data collection however PC explained that information is collected by Tees Valley Combined Authority and furthermore that figures have steadily improved throughout the Tees Valley, particularly Middlesbrough, in recent years.

Town Centre

As per the presentation PC suggests that improvements must be made to the environment and public realm of the town centre, focusing on other uses will potentially increase the demand for retail footfall in the long run.

Infrastructure

PC explained that the issues stage of LP will identify the infrastructure needs in order to meet economic growth aspirations.

Cllr Cole highlighted concerns about the larger housing allocations and how they impact on infrastructure. PC explained that masterplans will be prepared for specific strategic sites.

Green infrastructure

PC suggests that the future role of Middlesbrough's green infrastructure should be identified as not only protection measures but also as a means of use and improvement to sustainable communities in the long term.

Cllr Walker agreed that Green infrastructure should be seen as a positive outcome to potentially controversial sites.

Historic Environment

PC emphasised the need for a positive strategy for the historic environment, one that will help deliver economic growth.

PC to determine if TVCA can improve data analysis.

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NEXT STEPS

PC confirmed evidence gathering is underway and preparation of the Issues Report will be considered by Executive.

Public consultation will be open for six weeks with preferred options in Spring 2017.

Cllr Rooney determined the Issues report should be seen by the smaller WMG before Executive with PC further informing that Councillor input is welcomed.

16/5

ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED

Cllr Rooney stressed the need to address public transport. PC explained HLP Policy CS17 'Transport Strategy' provides a positive approach to public transport needs.