

LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP

A meeting of the Local Plan Working Group was held on Monday 10 October 2022.

PRESENT: Councillors , B Cooper, D Coupe, S Hill, J Hobson and D Rooney

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Councillors C Dodds

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS: S Blood, P Clarke, A Conti and Whitwell

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors A Preston (The Mayor), E Polano, M Smiles and S Walker

21/9 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

The Chair had submitted his apologies and therefore nominations for Chair were sought from the table.

Councillor Hobson was nominated and seconded.

AGREED

That Councillor J Hobson take the role of the Chair for the meeting.

21/10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Polano (Chair), A Preston, M Smiles and S Walker.

21/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

21/12 **SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.5- ORDER OF BUSINESS**

AGREED - in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 5, the Chair agreed to vary the order of business to agenda item 4,3,5,6,7 and 8.

21/13 **LOCAL PLAN UPDATE**

Alex Conti, Strategic Policy Manager was in attendance to provide a presentation on the Local plan.

The Working group were advised that Council approved the decision to cease work on the emerging Local plan and commence work on a new Local Plan and a New Local Development Scheme which would include:

- Changes to policy and legislation
- Change in strategic priorities
- Some baseline information being out of date
- Impact of Covid and Brexit
- Withdrawal Statement & LDS published & consultees notified

The stages of the New Local Development scheme were set out in the presentation. The

officer advised that there had been a delay in the submission of the scoping document being submitted to Full Council and this would now be submitted on 30 November 2022. This would impact the commencement of the consultation (likely to commence in December 2022 and finish in January 2023).

AGREED- That the update and amended time scales for the LDS in terms of the Local Plan Scoping document be noted.

21/14 **MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP HELD ON 22 DECEMBER 2020**

The minutes of the Local plan working group held on 22 December 2020 were submitted and approved as a true record.

21/15 **DRAFT LOCAL PLAN SCOPING REPORT**

Alex Conti, Strategic Policy Manager presented the Local Plan Scoping document to the working group.

Under Regulation 18 – Preparation of a Local Plan there is a requirement for the Council to;

- Notify statutory and general consultees of the subject of the local plan that the Council proposes to prepare
- Invite representations about what a local plan with that subject ought to contain

The Council will accept representations for a period of at least 6 weeks.

In terms of the New Local Plan, the Council was proposing to cover the whole of the local authority area and the plan would cover the period 2022 – 2039.

A member queried the planning matters which would be covered and it was clarified that the Local Plan would cover all planning matters except Minerals & Waste. These matters would be as follows:

- Sustainable development
- Housing
- Economy
- Town Centres
- Healthy & Safe communities
- Sustainable transport
- Communications
- Effective use of land
- High Quality Design
- Climate Change and Flooding
- Natural Environment
- Historic Environment

The scoping document would also contain:

- Strategic Context
 - Other Council strategies and plan that the Local Plan will help to deliver
- Evidence Base
 - List of existing evidence documents
 - Ongoing review to keep up-to-date

The presentation also contained the objectives for the scoping document, these were as follows:

- A. To deliver new high quality, well-designed development that meets the needs and aspirations of our current and future residents
- B. To revitalise Middlesbrough Town Centre through diversifying our retail and

- leisure offer, and attracting new urban dwellers
- C. To strengthen our local economy by supporting existing businesses and attracting new employers
- D. To build high quality homes that help strengthen our communities
- E. To protect and enhance our Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
- F. To ensure that new development is properly served by new and improved physical, social and environmental infrastructure
- G. To recognise and value our historical and culturally important assets; and
- H. To achieve healthy and safe communities

Members has an opportunity to comment on the objectives and a number of comments were made in relation to transport, areas of housing and also the Mayoral development cooperation. It was made clear that the local plan would still need to be produced regardless of the MDC and officers were unable to comment on the MDC.

The officers further discussed that consultation questions which would be included within the consultation. The working group were advised that as part of the consultaion, they were not obliged to ask questions but this would give a steer and get some themed answers. The questions suggested were as follows;

1. Is the proposed geographical area (i.e. the whole of Middlesbrough Local Authority Area) appropriate for preparing a new Local Plan?
2. Is the proposed plan period of 2022 – 2039 appropriate?
3. Do you consider that the proposed evidence base sufficiently covers all relevant matters for the Local Plan?
4. Do you agree with the identified Objectives?
5. Having read the Scoping Report, is there anything else we should include within the new Local Plan?
6. Do you have any other comments?

As part of the Local plan scoping report, the Council also needed to undertake the following pieces of work:

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

- Legal requirement to assess the environmental, economic and social impact of policies
- Ongoing alongside Local Plan process

Call for Sites

- Opportunity for landowners to put forward land for housing and economic development
- Officer advised that there was a significant number of sites than required and there is never a shortage.
- Members of the working group requested whether the sites in questions could be circulated and this would be done via email at the appropriate time.

Finally in terms of the consultation plan, the scope would be as follows:

- Dates TBC. Minimum 6 weeks. Close by end of January
- Documents online, at Middlesbrough House and in Libraries & Community Hubs
- Direct notification of consultees – emails & letters
- Social Media, Press Release, Residents' Magazine
- Comments must be made in writing – online portal, email, by letter or completing a form

AGREED- That the scoping document be noted and agreed,

21/16 **DRAFT LOCAL PLAN SCOPING REPORT CONSULTATION PLAN**

The consultation plan has been discussed under the previous item, draft local plan scoping report.

AGREED- That the consultation plan be noted.

21/17 **FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

The working group discussed the future work programme, this would include;

- CONSULTATION EXERCISE
- WARDS
- HOUSING STRATEGY AND NUMBERS

The working group also requested that a meeting be held after the scoping document has been approved by Full Council to discuss progress.

AGREED- that the future work programme be noted.

21/18 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

No items.