

ECONOMY, HOUSING AND SKILLS POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 6TH MARCH, 2013

Present – Councillors Evans (Chairman), J. Byrne (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Critchley, Donaghy, Peel, Radlett and Sherrington (as deputy for Councillor J. Byrne)

Officers

Mr. T. Hill	Chief Planning and Housing Officer
Mr. S. Godley	Development Manager (Planning Strategy)
Ms. M. Horrocks	Unit Manager Strategic Housing
Ms. T. Gandhi	Housing Strategy Officer
Ms. B. O'Connor	Health Improvement Specialist
Mr. I.D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors J. Byrne and Irving.

Councillor Evans in the Chair

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February, 2013 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

17. PUBLICATION OF BOLTON'S ALLOCATIONS PLAN

(Councillor Allen declared an interest in so far as he had sent in a letter of objection to one aspect of the proposals. Councillor Donaghy declared an interest as an employee of Sainsbury's in the town centre area.)

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which set out details of possible further changes to the Allocations Plan prior to its consideration by the Executive Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Skills.

Members were reminded that a recent consultation exercise had been undertaken on the proposed changes to the Plan and now in the light of those it was recommended that additional changes were made. Section two of the report went onto detail the further amendments which mainly related to housing sites.

In terms of the next steps, the report explained that the published version of the Allocations Plan had to be agreed by the Executive Cabinet Member and then by full Council. Once the Council had approved the Published Plan, it was then subject to a period of consultation in line with the requirements of the Town and

Country Planning Regulations. Furthermore, once the consultation period had finished, the Council could submit the Plan to the Secretary of State. A Planning Inspector would then be appointed to test the soundness of the Plan.

Members in their discussions referred to the following matters –

- The Hollins;
- Cutacre;
- Temple Road Site;
- Flood risk issues; and
- The next steps.

It was agreed that the updated position be noted and the report be submitted to the Executive Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Skills for approval.

18. SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS ACT, 1975 – POLICY DOCUMENTS

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which sought the support of the Policy Development Group of three Policy Documents relating to the, Safety at Sports Grounds Act, 1975.

By way of background information, the report explained that to ensure there was transparency and due process it was essential that the local authority documents policies and procedures to deliver the safety at sports ground function.

The policies set out what the Club could expect from the service. They commit the Local authority to good practices and procedures and they supplement the Council's Policy Document on Managing Safety at Designated Sports Grounds, previously approved.

It was agreed that the Executive Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Skills be recommended to approve the policies as referred to in the report.

19. PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR HOT FOOD TAKEAWAYS.

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which set out details of the Health Policy Development Groups recommendation to amend planning policy on new hot food takeaways to limit their location near schools.

By way of background information, the report explained that the Council had approved a Planning Control Policy Note on the location of restaurants, cafes,

public houses, bars and hot food takeaways in urban areas. This was most recently reviewed in 2009.

One issue that the Policy Note did not cover was the relationship between takeaways and schools. The Health Policy Development Group recently considered a report from the Director of Public Health on tackling the obesogenic food environment. The report suggested a number of measures and included evidence for introducing restrictions on takeaways near schools, based on public health considerations.

Members were advised that it would be possible for the Council to amend the current Planning Control Policy Note to include a section on the restriction of takeaways around schools and using it as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The report went on to consider matters around the practicalities of implementing such a policy.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- secondary school pupils coming into the town centre;
- matters around opening hours;
- the differing patterns of primary and secondary pupils;
- issues around takeaways not being near to schools;
- whether to link any measures with primary and sixth form provision;
- matters around educating children to eat healthily; and
- planning restrictions in place and the potential for amendments.

It was agreed that the Director of Development and Regeneration be asked to prepare an initial draft of an amendment to the Planning Policy Note which includes matters around a 400 metre exclusion zone around secondary schools and perhaps also primary schools and also gives consideration to the issue of the hours of use.

20. DRAFT AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY

(Councillors Allen, Donaghy and Sherrington declared interests as members of the Bolton at Home Board)

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which set out details of the draft Affordable Warmth Strategy for Bolton, for the period 2013 to 2018.

The Strategy aimed to address the issue of fuel poverty in Bolton and methods of assisting fuel poor residents.

A copy of the draft Strategy was appended to the report.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- issues concerning property insulations;
- attendance at and the promotion of money skills workshops and alternative ways of getting the information out;
- use of pre-payment meters;
- the AGMA basic measures requirements; and
- this meeting being part of the consultation.

It was agreed that the report and comments made by members be noted.

(The meeting started at 5.30pm. and finished at 7.05pm)