

DEVELOPMENT, REGENERATION AND SKILLS POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 9TH NOVEMBER, 2010

Present – Councillors Ibrahim (Chairman), Peel (Vice-Chairman), Cox, Critchley, Darvesh (as deputy for Councillor Bashir-Ismail), J. Walsh and D. Wilkinson (as deputy for Councillor Mrs. Ronson).

Officers

Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mr. T. Hill	Chief Planning Officer
Mr. G. Langley	Principal Engineer/Officer Local Transport Plan
Mr. J. Mayo	Development Officer (Climate Change)
Mrs. V. Ridge	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bashir-Ismail and Mrs. Ronson.

Councillor Ibrahim here took the Chair

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Development, Regeneration and Skills Policy Development Group held on 26th August, 2010 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

12. BOLTON INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which informed members of the Bolton Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Members were advised that local authorities must work with its partners to ensure that future growth aspirations were supported by appropriate infrastructure as set out in PPS12. Consequently, the Council had participated in a pilot project with the Planning Advisory Service on developing a national guidance document to good infrastructure planning and, as a result, had produced a Bolton Infrastructure Delivery Plan which was supported by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan Board. This Plan superseded previous infrastructure evidence and supported the Bolton Core Strategy at the Examination in Public.

The report provided a detailed description of the Bolton Infrastructure Delivery Plan which was split into eight chapters as follows:-

- Chapter 1 – introduction;
- Chapter 2 – Governance and Delivery;
- Chapter 3 - Information on Bolton;
- Chapter 4 – Strategic Sites;
- Chapter 5 – Physical Infrastructure;
- Chapter 6 – Social Infrastructure;
- Chapter 7 – Green Infrastructure; and
- Chapter 8 – Infrastructure Schedule.

A full copy of the Bolton Infrastructure Delivery Plan was provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

A discussion ensued with regard to the Delivery Plan and in particular in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- The physical infrastructure for transport and the motorway links;
- The physical infrastructure for rail and the issues associated with the Manchester Hub;
- Issues associated with parking provisions at the Royal Bolton Hospital;
- issues associated with works on the highway and the need to take into account the transport infrastructure prior to any major developments taking place; and
- The need to strive for good collaborative and effective working with the Authority's partners.

Following on from the discussion, the Director of Development and Regeneration advised that the Plan would be updated to take into account the comments made and also the implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement. This would then be shared with members prior to it being submitted to the Executive for their approval.

It was agreed that the report be noted and the Bolton Infrastructure Delivery Plan be amended as detailed above and be submitted to the Executive in the New Year for approval.

13. CONSULTATION PAPER – TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS: PROPOSALS FOR STREAMLINING

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which put forward a proposed response to the consultation document on proposed Tree Preservation Order legislation.

Members were advised that, in July, 2010, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) announced his intention to consult on streamlining the approach to tree protection. Consequently, a consultation paper was published in September, 2010 and the consultation

period ended on 20th December, 2010.

The stated purposes of the proposals were as follows:-

1. To consolidate the existing legal provisions in regulations and tree preservation orders (TPOs) into one set of new regulations; and
2. To streamline the system in order
 - To make the process fairer to tree owners;
 - To reduce the administrative burden on local planning authorities; and
 - To increase accessibility to a more equitable system.

The report outlined in detail the main features of the draft regulations which were summarised as follows:-

- TPOs would be consolidated into one single, simplified format, under one common legal system and this would apply to new TPOs and be retrospective to existing orders;
- TPOs would apply immediately (subject to confirmation within six months);
- Only directly affected interested parties would need to be notified of an order;
- Consents for work to be carried out would enable programmes of work, not just individual operations and ambiguities relating to 'dying trees' would be removed;
- Power to modify or revoke consents of work on older TPOs would be removed;
- Conditions requiring replanting might extend to other areas, not just woodlands; and
- Article 5 certificates that limited Local Planning Authorities liabilities in relation to older TPOs would be revoked.

In conclusion it was stated that generally, the proposed changes were to be welcomed and they simplified and clarified the processes for Local Planning Authorities and landowners and should reduce costs accordingly.

Appendix 1 to the report also outlined a series of consultation questions with the appropriate responses.

With regard to the appendix, it was felt that question A5 should be strengthened to ensure that there was no ambiguity regarding the definition of dangerous/dying trees.

It was agreed that the responses to the consultation questions as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be supported subject to the amendment of question A5.

(The meeting started at 12.00 noon and finished at 1.00 p.m.)