

Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

5 October 2015

Present: Councillor S Graham (Chair)
Councillors A Austin, B Burdis, S Day, P Earley,
M Hall, Janet Hunter, N Huscroft, C Johnson, A McMullen, P
McIntyre, A McMullen, J O'Shea and M Rankin

Church Representatives
Rev Vine

Others in attendance
Councillor B Pickard

OV24/10/15 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Allan, D McGarr
School Governor Representatives Mrs J Little & Mrs M Ord

OV25/10/15 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members

OV26/10/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

OV27/10/15 Minutes

Resolved that the minute of the meetings held on 7 September 2015 be confirmed.

OV28/10/15 Gambling Act 2005 Draft Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling)

The Committee received the draft Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling) that detailed the final proposals following its consultation.

The Committee was reminded that a 12 week consultation period was carried out to allow members of the public, Councillors, MP's, MEP's and officers an opportunity to comment on the draft policy statement.

A member working party took place on 30 September 2015 to consider the 20 responses received and a schedule of the responses that the working party was circulated to the Committee for consideration.

A Member raised his concerns with the description of the access provision for premises in relation to Adult Gaming Centres. It was stated that access to this provision was unclear and should be more explicit to eliminate any confusion.

The Public Protection Manager thanked the Members and stated his concern would be considered.

Agreed that Gambling Act 2005 Draft Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling) be noted.

OV29/10/15 North Tyneside Local Plan – Pre-Submission Draft

The Committee received a report that detailed a summary of the responses received to the Local Plan Consultation Draft that had been published in February 2015.

The Committee was reminded that the Local Plan was needed to give the Authority:

- Greater control over local decisions on future developments;
- The ability to be proactive in accommodating growth and plan for the delivery of supporting infrastructure;
- A robust framework through which the objectives of the Council Plan can be delivered.

It was also reminded that the Committee had considered two reports in December 2014 and January 2015 to consider:

- The overall robustness of the proposed engagement activities for the then Local Plan consultation process;
- The range of evidence prepared to inform three realistic growth options required to meet the boroughs housing and employment needs to 2032.

It heard the decision to follow Growth Option B was made in January by the Council's Cabinet.

During the consultation period between 9 February and 27 March 2015, 515 individual or organisation written responses had been submitted that amounted to over 2,400 separate comments. There were also 4 petitions received and details were provided.

The Committee heard that in July 2015 progress of the Local Plan was reported to Cabinet that outlined:

- A summary of the responses received to the Local Plan Consultation Draft 2015;
- The need to prepare and update additional evidence to support the Local Plan (eg updated population forecasts, the preparation of concept plans for the strategic development sites at Murton Gap and Killingworth Moor);
- The timescales required to prepare the additional evidence that would necessitate a formal amendment to the Local Plan timetable (the Local Development Scheme); and
- Proposals to formally establish a Local Plan Steering Group to advise on issues as they emerged and oversee the future delivery of the Local Plan.

The Authority was required to formally publish and consult the Pre-Submission Draft of the Local Plan before its submission to the Secretary of State for formal examination before an Independent Planning Inspector.

The Local Plan included policies relating to:

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- The prioritisation of employment along the River Tyne North Bank, the A19 corridor, Weetslade Balliol East and West, and Gosforth Business Park and Whitley Road;
- Wallsend, North Shields and the Coastal area – particularly Whitley Bay will provide a focus for new retail, leisure, office and tourist development;
- Additional priority to the regeneration and development of North Shields, the Coast and Wallsend and also the North West Communities;

- Enable the delivery of sufficient homes to meet the borough's agreed housing requirement, including the specific identification of land for about 8,500 new homes across a range of sites;
- Supporting the level of growth with the necessary infrastructure such as roads, public transport, health, education, open space, community and cultural facilities
- A baseline target of 25% of new homes built to be affordable;
- The introduction of minimum space and accessibility standards for new housing;
- The retention of the Green Belt within North Tyneside; and
- Protecting and enhancing built and natural assets such as open spaces, designated ecological sites, cycle routes, listed buildings and conservation areas.

Information was provided in relation determining the level of housing growth (known as 'objectively assessed need'). It was stated that 13 plans had been withdrawn or found unsound due to the inadequate evidence in determining the level of housing growth or the failure to meet identified need. A further 30 plans had been suspended to further reconsider their housing growth requirements on advice of their respective Planning Inspectors.

The report emphasised the importance to ensure that the assessment of housing need was based on the latest available evidence and highlighted that the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had published revised 2012 Based Household Forecast in February 2015. Based on the updated evidence, the boroughs preferred growth scenario lead to an annual requirement for 828 homes per year over the plan period 2011 to 2032.

To meet the level of required growth the plan was required the allocation of two strategic development sites at Murton Gap and Killingworth Moor.

The report emphasised that if the Local Plan did not allocate sufficient sites to meet its growth requirements it was highly unlikely that the Planning Inspector would consider the plan sound at examination.

The report detailed that a local Green Space Assessment had identified specific areas and 4 sites had been considered as being potentially suitable and these were:

- Benton Triangle
- Benton Curve
- The Crescent site at the Fish Quay; and
- Killingworth Open Break

The Local Plan – Pre-Submission draft would be available for public consultation for a 6 week period and would commence in November 2015. The consultation would seek feedback from interested parties on the compliance of the policies and proposals to Legal requirements and the 'four tests of soundness' set out within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Upon the submission of Local Plan to the Secretary of State in May 2016, the Authority was required to submit its entire evidence base and all responses received to the Pre-Submission Draft.

Following this submission an Independent Planning Inspector would be appointed to conduct a formal public examination.

A Member of the Committee stated that he believed that the Local Plan was a realistic one that would protect the planning process and green belt land within the borough.

Another Member stated that there was a need to have a Local Plan that would protect the greenbelt from being developed and by the progressing of the plan would ensure this would happen.

A Member questioned the recommendations in the report and asked the Committee to consider adding an additional recommendation in relation to the Housing Growth Option. It was asked that the Committee recommend that Cabinet return to the Housing Growth Options considered in January 2015 and reconsider the lowest growth option.

Members raised their concerns to this proposal stating that when the Local Plan proposals were presented to the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee in December 2014, it was informed that guidance had been given to all Local Authorities that the levels of housing growth had to be realistic and supported by clear evidence for the level chosen.

It was also stated that in December 2014, the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee had been asked to scrutinise the evidence and the implications of choosing one growth option above another and concluded that based on the available evidence, Growth Option B should be pursued as this most closely reflected the Authority's priorities.

Another Member also stated that if an option was put forward that did not have clear full evidence why the lowest housing growth option was chosen then the expectation would be that the Planning Inspector would reject the North Tyneside – Local Plan.

Members were reminded to the information in the report that detailed determining the levels of Growth for Housing, which detailed the number of plans that had been withdrawn due to the inadequacy of evidence. It also detailed the updated evidenced annual requirement for homes for the period 2011 to 2032.

A Member stated that officers had worked on developing the Local Plan for a number of years and asked what requirement had been considered in determining the Housing Growth Level.

An officer stated that housing requirements had been derived from evidence of growth in households and population, and the range of housing land available to meet that requirement.

It was stated that if there was evidence that the Member believed was not available or had been considered in determining the recommended Housing Growth Option, then this evidence should be submitted for consideration.

A Member stated that the authority was working closely with neighbouring authorities to ensure that planned housing growth across the three authorities was complementary. It was asked what effect would there be if any of the plans were rejected.

In response it was stated that a possible effect if a neighbouring authorities plan was rejected would be the requirement for North Tyneside to provide a further 1000 homes.

Two Members stated that they were not supportive to the Housing Growth Option that had been agreed in January 2015.

The Chair stated that all views raised had been debated and the recommendations placed before the Committee had been based on government and local evidence. The majority views of the Committee were to agree the recommendations in the report.

It was stated that if a different option was put forward contrary to evidence available, the North Tyneside – Local Plan could be rejected by the Planning Inspector with financial implications to the Authority.

Agreed to accept the recommendations of the North Tyneside Local Plan – Pre-Submission Draft.

OV30/10/15 Report of the Cycling Strategy Sub-group

The Committee received a report produced the Environment Sub-committee' Cycling Strategy Sub-group.

The Cycling Strategy had been selected as it was programmed to be reviewed and refreshed in 2015. The sub-group's work ensured it would be used to build on the current high level of cycling in the borough. It would also hoped it would be used to ensure opportunities to maximise investment in cycling were not missed.

The sub-group made 4 recommendations which it believed would ensure that the refreshed cycling strategy would lead to improvements for cycling in North Tyneside and allow the Authority to maximise investment in the future.

Agreed that (1) the Cycling Strategy Sub Group report and recommendations (listed) be referred to Cabinet:-

- R1. Cabinet be requested to endorse the addition of a further key objective to the 2030 Vision, relating to new developments; to agree that an updated set of objectives be incorporated into the 2015-19 Cycling Strategy when drafted; and to agree that the appropriate Local Development Document should be amended, as part of its review, to more robustly reflect best practice with respect to cycling.
- R2. Cabinet be requested to ensure that the 2015-19 strategy includes a clear indication of strategic cycling routes and a clear indication that initiatives will be developed to further support and increase cycling; and to agree that a target be set for increasing cycling in North Tyneside.
- R3. Cabinet be requested to ensure that a corporate approach (including Public Health, Highways, Planning and Tourism) to the promotion of cycling in North Tyneside is adopted; and agree that an Annual Information Report on cycling should be provided to Cabinet.
- R4. Cabinet be requested to ensure that design guidance is developed and that this guidance reflects best practice; and ensure that a corporate approach to maintaining the cycling network is

OV31/10/15 Cabinet response to Kier North Tyneside Joint Venture report

The Committee received the response from Cabinet to the recommendations submitted by the sub group of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee in relation to its work on Kier North Tyneside Joint Venture.

Appended to the report were details to the actions to be taken for each of the sub groups recommendations.

Agreed that the recommendation responses from Cabinet in relation to the work of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee in relation to its work on Kier North Tyneside Joint Venture be noted.

OV32/10/15 Establishment of sub group – Parking Permits

The Committee heard that at the scrutiny Chairs and Deputy Chairs meeting consideration was given to the establishment of a sub-group to review the parking permits across the borough.

It was recognised that that the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee along with its sub-committees were progressing with their individual work programmes and to minimise the impact on these. The review would need to be completed and reported to Cabinet in early 2016. It was proposed that the review be undertaken and that nominations be sought from all the Councils non-executive Members to be part.

Agreed to establish a sub-group – Parking Permits.