

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ADVISORY GROUP

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2009
6.00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

Members of the Advisory Group:

Councillor Galloway (Chair)
Councillors Bristow, Ferrans, Hopkins, A Morris, Potts and White

If you have any enquires about this agenda please contact John Zammit (Committee Manager) on (01908) 252484 or e-mail: John.Zammit@milton-keynes.co.uk

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The Local Development Framework Advisory Group will:

1. Monitor and review the Local Development Scheme including:
 - The Annual Monitoring Report
 - Other performance measures
2. Consider and advise the Cabinet on the content of individual draft Development Plan Documents (DPDs) prior to their consideration and approval by cabinet for public consultation.
3. Consider and advise the Cabinet on any changes to DPDs in response to public consultation prior to their consideration and approval by Cabinet.
4. Ensure that each DPD is centred on achieving the Council's objectives and the aims of the Community Strategy.
5. Develop its role as appropriate.

Frequency of Meetings:

1. The Local Development Framework Advisory Group will meet as and when necessary in order to consider draft DPDs and suggested changes to DPDs in response to public consultation.
2. Advisory Group meetings will be held at least 2 weeks (10 working days) before the Cabinet is due to make a decision on the content of a DPD, so that any recommendations by the Group can be properly considered by the lead Cabinet Member and by officers prior to the cabinet meeting.
3. Advisory Group meetings will be held in public. Agendas will be produced in accordance with the normal requirements for publishing council committee papers and minutes.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Apologies

3. Disclosure of Interests

Members to disclose any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business to be transacted, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

4. Local Development Framework: Design Guide - New Housing Development

To consider Item 4 (**Pages 4 to 5**).

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: Design Guide - New Housing Development

Cabinet Member: Councillor Mike Galloway (Environment, Planning and Growth)

Report Author: Neil Sainsbury, Principal Urban Designer, Tel: (01908) 252708

1. Purpose

To briefly introduce the Design Guide and its role/purpose and then provide an opportunity, prior to formal consultation, for the LDF Advisory Group to input and comment on the draft Design Guide for New Housing Development.

If possible to agree what changes (if any) will be made to the Design Guide) although this might only be agreed at the meeting of the LDF Advisory Group on the 28 October.

2. Background

It was agreed approximately 2 years ago to produce Design Guidance that could provide answers and clear direction to both developers and Development Control officers from both MKC/MKP to many of the issues that were continually arising at pre-application discussions. These issues mainly related to:

- Ways to accommodate parking
- The character/identity of new developments and appearance of buildings
- The nature and design of shared surfaces
- Density
- The strategic movement network and blocks

At the time the Design Guidance could only be adopted as 'Technical Guidance' because the Core Strategy had not been adopted. The Design Guidance was therefore adopted as Technical Guidance by both MKC/MKP in November 2007.

In autumn of 2008 we were informed that we could progress and convert the Design Guide into a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This would have the benefit of giving the Guide much greater status and weight in guiding both developers about what the council and MKP expected from new residential developments and Development Control in terms of helping determine planning applications.

A Steering Group of officers from both MKC and MKP was established at the end of 2008 to oversee the production of the SPD.

The Design Guide primarily focuses on the above 'local' issues but has also been expanded to cover other important urban design principles and their relevance to Milton Keynes. This latter point is crucial – the Design Guide is not simply a repeat of best practice and national guidance but while being informed by this, it has been adapted to deal with the Milton Keynes context.

3. Proposed Way Forward / Programme

October 2009 – consultation with LDF Advisory Group
November 2009- delegated decision to agree document to go to consultation

Jan/Feb 2010 - formal consultation

Jan 2010 – presentation to developers
Jan 2010– formal launch of consultation

April 2010 – formal adoption as SPD
April 2010 – cabinet decision to agree changes following consultation and formal adoption

The timing of the production of the SPD is believed to be good in that it will be adopted just as the housing market recovers.