



Minutes of the meeting of the LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ADVISORY GROUP held on 18 MARCH 2009 at 5.30 pm

Present: Councillor D McCall (Chair),
Councillors Ferrans, Galloway, Hopkins, A Morris and White

Officers: I Haynes (Chief Spatial Planner), M Harris (Senior Planning Officer),
Bob Wilson (Development Plans Manager), Michael Moore (Senior
Planning Officer) and J Zammit (Committee Manager)

Also Present: Councillor Bint, Miles and Tunney

Public: 5

LDF20 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 January 2009, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

LDF21 CORE STRATEGY: DRAFT SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

The Group was informed that this report followed on from the three previous meetings where the policies and delivery and implementation sections of the submission document had been discussed. The Group noted that the views expressed by Members at previous meetings had been taken into account in the editing of those sections.

It was noted that in previous Core Strategy consultation documents, there had been a significant amount of supporting text which explained how policies had been developed and why they were needed. The submission document did not include the same level of detail and explanation. Where necessary topic papers would be prepared to provide additional background information. These topic papers would be prepared prior to publication of the submission document for consultation.

The Group was informed that a meeting with the Government Office of the South East (GOSE) on the Submission Core Strategy had resulted in requests from GOSE for changes to the Submission document to ensure it was in accordance with the Government policy PPS12: Local Spatial Planning. The key points arising from

the meeting with GOSE were distributed as a separate document to the Group.

Officers informed the Group that the suggestion from the GOSE would have implications for the projected timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy and it was now unlikely that it would be possible to complete the Strategy before June. However, the Group recognised that this would avoid the risk of additional costs being incurred from having the document declared unsound and having to reconsult on it.

The Group noted that as a result of the GOSE intervention, for example the document would, for example, include more information about proposed 'areas of change' in a more easily accessible format.

The Group noted that the consultation would only be on the Core Strategy itself and not the supporting documents.

The Group noted that once the Group had completed its work, the draft Core Strategy would be submitted to Cabinet and ultimately adopted by Council.

Members made the following comments in regards to the Core Strategy:

- That 1 job per new home was too low a figure and should be closer to 1.4 jobs per household. The 1 to1 ratio was a minimum from the South East Plan.
- That there was no mention of science based manufacturing firms within the document.
- That the document while mentioning public transport would need to address realistic uses of the car in the future.
- That the document should take a more balanced view of the role of Houses in Multiple Occupation. There needed to be more views on how to accommodate single person homes.
- That provision of schools would need confirming as there were a number of factors to take into account including up-to-date information on the number of children in new development areas; increasing numbers of children in some older areas of Milton Keynes; and cross boundary flows of children between local authority areas.
- That in respect of shopping/retail the Strategy should address the possibility that the number of visitors to Central Milton Keynes could increase significantly.
- That CMK also functions as a local centre for local residents as well as centre for the city and the sub-region.
- The Core Strategy needed to be more explicit on the balance between small niche shops and large superstores.

- The Core Strategy should be more explicit about the mix of jobs and dwellings, and recognise the need for more executive housing to attract business leaders to the city.
- The cultural section needs to address small businesses, and articulate that Milton Keynes has a smaller than national average of small businesses. This section should also produce an examination of the economy of Milton Keynes, for example what types of businesses currently exist at the level of skill available.
- The South East Strategic Development Area should include a requirement for a multi-modal transport interchange; allow for the construction of the Bedford to Milton Keynes waterway; re-consider housing capacity and density; and address community / leisure needs including in the neighbouring settlements of Wavendon and Woburn Sands.
- It should also be mentioned that Milton Keynes was competing against international cities of a European level.
- The Vision must be clearer and more aspirational and inspiring about what the Council wanted Milton Keynes to become in the next 20 years.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Draft Submission Core Strategy be noted and that the comments above be addressed in revising the document.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.30PM.