



Minutes of the meeting of the LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ADVISORY GROUP held on 20 APRIL 2009 at 5.30 pm

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

Officers: B Wilson (Development Plans Manager), M Moore (Senior Planning Officer), M Harris (Planning Officer), G Marsden (Planning Officer)

Also Present: Councillors Bint, A Geary and Tunney

Public: 0

LDF22 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Advisory Group held on 18 February 2009 and 3 March 2009, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

LDF23 CORE STRATEGY: DRAFT SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

Officers presented the Core Strategy Draft Submission Document for the consideration of the Group. The draft followed on from the four previous meetings of the Local Development Framework Advisory Group where a previous draft of the Submission Core Strategy had been discussed.

The Group discussed the revised versions of the introduction, vision, objectives and Spatial Strategy in the Core Strategy, which took into account views of the Group expressed at previous meetings, the comments of the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) and other key stakeholders.

The Group noted that as reported at the previous meeting GOSE had concerns that the original draft did not provide enough detail of the change that Milton Keynes was facing, when it was going to happen and when. GOSE also had concerns that the original draft was not clear enough in setting out the strategy for growth, due to the inclusion of too much explanatory information, making it difficult to see the key outcomes.

The views expressed at previous meetings had also been taken into account in revising the document. A schedule of the changes made in response to the comments of the Group and individual Members

would be prepared for circulation at the Group's meeting on 6 May. This would include comments made at this meeting, and also the reasons why suggested changes had not always been adopted.

The Group made the following comments on the Draft Submission Document:

Councillor Hopkins read out a note from an e-mail dated 19 April with comments from the Danesborough area consultation group concerning traffic impacts from the South East Strategic Development Areas on the surrounding area together with other matters raised concerned housing, employment and climate change.

- That a 1.5 jobs per household ratio needed to be factored into the Core Strategy with appropriate impacts on housing growth being taken into account.
- That the draft did not highlight the successes so far of Milton Keynes and why Milton Keynes was a desirable place to live.
- That references to educational attainment as a key driver of change were vague and should be strengthened.
- That the uncertainties of climate change might need to be addressed within this document, in the same way as in other Core Strategies.
- The current maps of the whole of the Borough were helpful, but a map should be added showing the regional context.
- Although the South West Strategic Development Area in Aylesbury was outside the Council's control, the impact on Bletchley and the A421 would need new infrastructure.
- That in respect of leisure facilities no mention had been made of religious/worship provision.
- That there should be mention of Milton Keynes' pioneering spirit and 'leading edge' reputation in respect of sustainable development.
- That it should be clear that Milton Keynes was at the leading edge of carbon reduction.
- The Bletchley bus station needed improvement.

Councillor Bint felt that the document should include statements on the following three points:

- The kind of place we would want Milton Keynes to become, for example if Milton Keynes aspired to be a city that competes on a European level.
- Why Milton Keynes had been successful so far, including the ability to move about the city easily.
- That we are encouraging people to use sustainable transport methods, but not requiring them to abandon the car.

In addition Councillor Bint suggested the document should address consequences of an expected increase in the BME population, for example on the need to teach English.

The Group discussed educational attainment. It noted that there were differing views on how to achieve an increase in educational attainment, including the new University Centre MK and strengthening links to existing nearby universities. The Group noted that there was real demand from industry for training courses for their staff to be close at hand.

Selected villages were discussed and it was noted that the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment would be reported to a future meeting, with consultation with Parishes being a key part of that work.

The Group also noted the need for a mixture of different housing types; that a large number of flats was not ideal; and that the concept of shared ownership housing was not working out as intended.

Officers informed the Group that the Western Expansion Area would have a new crematorium and that there would be provision for 2,400 burial spaces.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Report be noted
2. That officer incorporate Members' views into the Core Strategy

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6.40PM.