

Local Plan Working Party

Minutes

Monday 1 June 2015

Present:

Cllr I J Beardsmore
Cllr A Friday
Cllr V Leighton
Cllr A Mitchell
Cllr R A Smith-Ainsley
Cllr R L Watts

1 Apologies

None

2 Election of Chairman

2.1 Cllr R Smith-Ainsley was elected as Chairman

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2015 were agreed.

4 Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

4.1 The Head of Planning introduced the agenda and reminded members of the role of the working party, the purpose of the meeting and the background to the current work being undertaken as set out in his report. There were a number of documents which needed to be agreed by Cabinet following consultation. Draft Cabinet Reports had been prepared for each item.

5 Duty to Cooperate Framework

5.1 The Duty to Cooperate Statement had been the subject of consultation with those bodies with which we needed to cooperate. There had only been limited comment and a tracked changes version of the document had been prepared together with a summary of the comments received and recommended responses. Members discussed the consultation responses and the proposed changes to the draft document which would now become the Duty to Cooperate Framework. A further amendment to reflect an update to the River Thames Strategy (para 4.60) was agreed.

Resolved

It was agreed that Cabinet be recommended to agree the Duty to Cooperate Framework subject to the changes proposed.

6 Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

- 6.1 The Statement of Community Involvement had been subject to public consultation over a four week period and a wide range of comments had been received. These were set out in the Table of Response & Comments table attached to the draft Cabinet Report and proposed changes were included in a tracked changes version of the document.
- 6.2 It was noted that some further minor changes to the document were needed to reflect that the Deregulation Bill had now been enacted. The statutory duty to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy had also been repealed and a new Development Management Procedure Order had been released. Further minor amendments were discussed and it was agreed that these would be shown as new tracked changes in the document to be recommended to Cabinet.

Resolved:

It was agreed, subject to the further amendments discussed, to recommend Cabinet to recommend to Council that the Statement of Community Involvement be adopted subject to the changes proposed.

7 Spelthorne Town Centres Study 2014

- 7.1 The draft study document, prepared by consultants GVA, had now been consulted on and a table of comments received and responses was attached to the draft Cabinet Report. The study follows a standard methodology for such work and involved the assessment of existing shopping patterns, availability of other town centre uses and the likely changes required to meet future need. The full report also sets out in appendices detailed maps as well as the survey results of shoppers in the four main centres and those living in the catchment areas. Public responses to the consultation were limited but a number of amendments arising from stakeholder involvement have been incorporated into the final report, a copy of which is available to view in the Members' Room.
- 7.2 Various aspects of the study were discussed and points made by consultees were noted. It was agreed that the base date of the study should be clarified.

Resolved:

It was agreed to recommend Cabinet to agree the Town Centres Study 2014 subject to the changes proposed.

8 Joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment with Runnymede BC

- 8.1 Following the decision of Cabinet on 30 September 2014, work on a joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) with Runnymede Borough Council had progressed. As part of this exercise a joint Member Liaison Group had been established with agreed Terms of Reference and with this Council being represented by Cllrs Leighton and Smith-Ainsley.
- 8.2 Consultants G L Hearn have now completed a draft of the SHMA. The work has followed the methodology set out by Government including the use of specific population projections. Members noted the assumptions and the sensitivity of the “trend data” used in the study and understood the caution which needs to be applied in considering some of the findings. A number of points of clarification were discussed and it was agreed that the report should now be the subject of public involvement.

Resolved:

It was agreed, to request Cabinet to agree the draft Strategic Housing Market Assessment for public involvement.