
LOCAL PLAN MEMBER WORKING GROUP

Wednesday, 10th August, 2016

Present: Councillor Loraine Cox (in the Chair), Councillors Judith Addison, Stewart Eaves and Kath Pratt

Apologies Councillors Melissa Fisher, Eamonn Higgins and Paddy Short

11 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Short, Fisher and Higgins.

12 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

13 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 11th July 2016

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Local Plan Member Working Group held on 11th July 2016 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Chief Planning and Transportation Officer informed the Panel that he had met with representatives of Peel Holdings who had made recommendations on Retail policies in the Development Management DPD.

Resolved - **That the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.**

14 Development Management DPD

The Chief Planning and Transportation Officer advised Members to raise any comments on the proposed Development Management DPD prior to the document being submitted to Cabinet scheduled for the end of August 2016. He explained how the document was made up and the policies and procedures it consisted of. He informed the Panel that it was the Council's aim to achieve quality developments by improving on current standards.

Members commented on the following issues:

- Section 106 Agreements and green space
- Ensuring that policies, as written down in the Development Management DPD were adhered to as much as possible.
- Concerns that the new bus station was not user friendly for the elderly or disabled users as access to the main shopping area was more convoluted.
- Concern that the parking policy in the Arndale car park was causing residents problems.
- Concern that the number of vacant properties in the borough was increasing.

The Chief Planning and Transportation Officer advised that there was a limit on how much funding from Section 106 agreements could be spent on open spaces and that an increase in the number of vacant properties was largely a problem created through ownership from

absentee landlords. In respect of consideration of planning applications and concern that the policies, as agreed and written down in the DPD, were not always fully adhered to, he explained that full weight would be applied to policies when determining planning applications but when policies contradicted each other priority would be given to the most important policies first, e.g. greenbelt.

The Principal Planning Officer reported that policies would be in place for the next 10 – 15 years and outlined the process for approval including that from the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate. He advised that the document would be adopted before the end of 2017.

The Chief Planning and Transportation Officer reported that people could contribute to the consultation online.

15 Date Of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

Signed:.....

Date:

Chair of the meeting
At which the minutes were confirmed