

EXECUTIVE – SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY 15 JULY 2013 AT 4.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Glover (Deputy Leader; and Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Ms Quilter (Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Mrs Riddle (Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Mrs Martlew (Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Dr Tickner (Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder)

OFFICERS:

Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Director of Governance
Director of Resources
Director of Local Environment

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Bowman (Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel)
Councillors Allison and Bowman S (Observers)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Economic Development

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

CALL-IN

It was noted that The Mayor had, on 4 July 2013, agreed that the single item of business concerning the Carlisle District Local Plan – Land Allocations should be exempt from call-in as call-in procedures would overlap the City Council meeting on 16 July 2013 when the matter would be considered.

EX.079/13 **CARLISLE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN – LAND ALLOCATIONS (Key Decision – KD.014/13)

(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Economy and Enterprise

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.64/13, the Deputy Leader; and Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder submitted report ED.19/13 concerning the Carlisle District Local Plan – Land Allocations.

The Deputy Leader; and Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder gave an overview of the background to the matter, commenting that the report identified the Preferred Options for sites to be allocated for a range of development including housing, employment and community uses up to 2030. The allocations would help to meet the objectives of the strategic housing and employment policies. Following the findings in the retail study that by 2021 Carlisle could accommodate an additional 16 900sq m of retail floor space, work was also currently being undertaken on a City Centre Master Plan.

Maps showing the preferred locations for a range of housing to meet the needs of current and future population, employment sites and a health centre at Brampton were appended to the report.

The Deputy Leader; and Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder reminded Members that the Preferred Options site allocations had been identified through a variety of sources, details of which were provided.

In terms of housing, all of the Preferred Options site allocations put forward in the report were required in order for the Council to meet its proposed annual housing target of 550 – 650 per year, with an urban / rural split of 70 / 30%. Although no firm decisions had yet been taken, it should be noted that the effect of removing a site would be the need to allocate an equivalent alternative elsewhere.

As the Council could currently demonstrate a five year housing supply with an additional buffer of 20%, it was not considered necessary to allocate sites for development in the first five years of the Plan period. The Preferred Options site allocations were therefore intended to come forward in years 6 – 10. For years 11 - 15 (i.e. 2025 – 2030) a broad location for growth had been identified in the area of Carlisle south, spreading westwards from junction 42 of the M6 to Durdar, with potential to expand further in a later plan period. The ultimate aim of that area of development would be to enable the construction of a southern relief road linking Junction 42 with the newly opened western relief road (CNDR).

Details of the Strategic Housing Policy and next stages in the plan preparation were also provided.

The Deputy Leader; and Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder further stated that approval for the Preferred Options Site Allocations would enable the whole Local Plan (policies and allocations) to meet the timescale set out in the Planning Service Project Plan. He added that having an up to date Local Plan was a central requirement of the Government Planning Policy and would provide an effective policy framework to guide development over the plan period, and on which to make decisions on planning applications. It would, in addition, give certainty and confidence to developers and the community.

The Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel had, on 25 June 2013 (EEOSP.44/13), considered the matter and resolved:

- “1) The Panel thanked the Officers for their work in producing the report.
- 2) The link between Policy S1 and Policy S6 should be made clearer in the final document
- 3) The Panel would like some consultation with regard to the clarification of potential school sites (Policy S2).
- 4) The Panel were satisfied that Policy S5 would fit the requirements of the City for the future.
- 5) The Panel were content with the draft local allocations and for the report to progress to the Executive and then Council to approve consultation.”

A copy of the Minutes of that meeting had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel was in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman gave an overview of the Panel's deliberations, commenting that Members had kept to the matter in hand, focussing on the Local Plan and land allocations, rather than local issues.

Questions and concerns had been raised in relation to infrastructure, schools and health implications. In addition, the Panel had sought clarification on a number of issues, details of which were set out in the Minutes of the meeting.

Panel Members had also recognised the considerable amount of work undertaken by the Local Plans Team in producing the report and commended them for a job well done.

In conclusion the Chairman confirmed that, subject to the issues raised, the Panel was content that the draft land allocations Carlisle District Local Plan was fit for consultation.

The Deputy Leader; and Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder echoed the comments expressed by the Chairman. He paid tribute to the Local Plans Team and the cross-party Working Group who had done an exceptional job in producing a very good, sound piece of work, which had led to the document before the Executive today.

The Deputy Leader added that Officers would take away the points of clarification raised by the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel with a view to ensuring that the draft documentation which went out to consultation was as clear as possible. The consultation exercise was designed to give people the opportunity to raise any concerns regarding the actual land allocations, and he hoped that would come out.

It was recognised that the statutory timetable was tight, but Officers would be happy to listen to further comments received beyond the stated deadline.

In conclusion, the Deputy Leader; and Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder thanked the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel for what had been a good meeting.

With those assurances, he moved the recommendations, which were duly seconded by the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Had considered feedback from the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel of 25 June 2013, together with the list of minor amendments included in Appendix 3 to Report ED.19/13.
2. Referred the draft Land Allocations Carlisle District Local Plan (and supporting documents) to Council on 16 July 2013 for approval for public consultation.

Reasons for Decision

Approval for the Preferred Options Site Allocations would enable the whole Local Plan (policies and allocations) to meet the timescale set out in the Planning Service Project Plan. Having an up to date Local Plan was a central requirement of the Government Planning Policy and would provide an effective policy framework to guide development over the plan period, and on which to make decisions on planning applications. It would, in addition, give certainty and confidence to developers and the community.

(The meeting ended at 4.08 pm)