
MEETING	LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP
DATE	16 JANUARY 2006
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS REID (in the Chair), D'AGORNE, HORTON, HYMAN, MACDONALD, MERRETT, SIMPSON-LAING, WALLER and R WATSON

PART A – MATTERS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair invited Members to declare at this point any personal or prejudicial interests which they might have in the business on the agenda.

Councillor D'Agorne declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 (City of York Local Development Framework – Core Strategy) as an employee of York College and a member of the York Open Planning Forum and the Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC).

Councillor Hyman declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 (City of York Local Development Framework – Core Strategy) as the City of York Council representative on Science City York.

Councillor Macdonald declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 (City of York Local Development Framework – Core Strategy) as an employee of the rail transport industry.

Councillor Merrett declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 (City of York Local Development Framework – Core Strategy) as an employee of the rail transport industry and an honorary member of the Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC) and Cycling England.

Councillor Waller declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 (City of York Local Development Framework – Core Strategy) as an employee of GNER.

11. MINUTES

RESOLVED: (i) That the Minutes of the Local Development Framework Working Group meeting held on 8 November 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record, with the following amendments:

- (a) To the seventh bullet point of the sixth paragraph of minute 4 (City of York Local Development Framework – Core Strategy) to read, “That reconsideration should be given as to whether to include a separate Vision statement in Section 3 rather than using the Without Walls statement”;
 - (b) To the fourth sub-bullet point, under the third bullet point of Section 12 of Appendix 1 to read, “Under the Walking and Cycling heading more emphasis to additional off-road routes and cycle parking in new developments together with city centre links to the National Cycle Routes and Green Tourism”;
 - (c) To the fifth sub-bullet point, under the third bullet point of Section 12 of Appendix 1 to read, “Reference to the strategic cycling network and pedestrian priority network”;
- (ii) That the Minutes of the Local Development Framework Working Group meeting held on 28 November 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council’s Public Participation Scheme.

13. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE CORE STRATEGY – UPDATE TO MEMBERS ON THE ROLE OF ECOFOOTPRINTING IN SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISALS

Members received a report which presented them with research undertaken by officers on the role of Ecofootprinting and how it could be used within the Sustainability Appraisal framework. Annex 2 of the report gave an officer response to comments that had been received on the consultation draft of the Local Development Framework (LDF) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report since the previous LDF Working Group meeting on the 8th November 2005.

Paragraphs 24-28 of the report proposed that a separate chapter on the role of Ecofootprinting be included in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and that the Ecofootprint be given status as an aggregated headline indicator to measure environmental sustainability within an overall ‘basket’ of sustainability indicators.

Members highlighted the need for the chapter on Ecofootprinting to be clear, understandable and fully integrated into the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

- RESOLVED: (i) That the approach put forward by officers, in paragraphs 24-28 of the report, regarding the use of the Ecofootprint in the sustainability appraisal be agreed (ie: that a separate chapter on the role of Ecofootprinting be included in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and that the Ecofootprint be given status as an aggregated headline indicator to measure environmental sustainability within an overall 'basket' of sustainability indicators);
- (ii) That the comments received following the previous meeting and the associated officer recommendations set out in Annex 2 of the report be noted;
- (iii) That the making of any incidental changes to the draft scoping document that are necessary as a result of the recommendations of the report be delegated to the Director of City Strategy and the Executive Member and Opposition Spokesperson for Planning and Transport.

14. CITY OF YORK LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – CORE STRATEGY

Members received a report which sought their views on the emerging Local Development Framework Core Strategy. This work was presently at its 'Issues and Options' stage with Officers working towards the production of papers for public consultation in early 2006.

Copies of Section 11 (Historic Environment) of the Core Strategy had been circulated at the meeting, as pages 67-68 were missing from the report.

Following Members' comments at the meeting on 8 November 2005 revisions had been made to the Core Strategy, including:

- Strengthening the focus on Sustainability within the document;
- Ensuring that the issues and options were clearly articulated and options presented were realistic;
- Improving the legibility of the document; and
- Clarifying the role of the Sustainability Appraisal, including its relationship with the City's Ecological Footprint and its role in highlighting the trade offs that were inherent in different approaches.

The revised document had also been shaped by work relating to the following areas:

- Further research into best practice particularly to ensure the scope and the level of detail included in the 'Issues & Options' document was correct;
- Discussion with Government Office for Yorkshire & the Humber who indicated that they were generally happy with the scope of the initial draft document;
- Consultation with the Without Walls Board;
- Additional internal consultation with appropriate technical officers; and

- Additional external consultation with groups such as the National Health Service, Primary Care Trust and the Emergency Services.

Following Members approval of the Issues and Options document a Sustainability Appraisal would be undertaken by independent consultants. The final version of the Issues and Options document, accompanied by the Sustainability Appraisal and a summary leaflet, would be used as the basis of a City wide consultation lasting a minimum of 6 weeks. The results of this consultation process and the initial Sustainability Appraisal would be reported back to Members along with recommendations on the form and scope of the Core Strategy at its 'Preferred Options Stage'.

Members made the following general comments on the Issues and Options document:

- That the consultation should emphasise that the lists of issues and options included in the document were not exhaustive;
- That the employment allocation in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy was smaller than that proposed in the document and that there was concern over this apparent contradiction;
- That Ward Committees should be used for consultation and awareness raising to obtain a good cross-section of views;
- That the Talkabout Panel and Your City should also be used as part of the consultation process;
- That text on dark green backgrounds was difficult to read for people with visual impairments and when printed in black and white from the web site;
- That A3 maps were difficult to print from the web site and that the ability to zoom in on the online maps would be helpful.

Members then made detailed comments on and amendments to each section of the document, as set out in Appendix 1 of the minutes.

RESOLVED: That the Executive be recommended to:

- (i) Approve the Draft Issues and Options document, attached at Annex A of the report, for consultation, with the amendments detailed in Appendix 1 of the minutes;
- (ii) Delegate to the Director of City Strategy and the Executive Member and Opposition Spokesperson for Planning and Transport the approval of the Sustainability Appraisal and summary leaflet to accompany the Issues and Options document consultation, following their circulation to Members of the LDF Working Group for comment;
- (iii) Delegate to the Director of City Strategy and the Executive Member and Opposition Spokesperson for Planning and Transport the making of any incidental changes to the draft document that are necessary as a result of the recommendations of the report.

COUNCILLOR A REID,
Chair.

The meeting began at 5.00pm and ended at 7.10 pm.