

31 October 2002
(6.00 pm – 7.20 pm)

DEVELOPMENT PLANS STEERING GROUP

Present: Councillors Harrison (Chair), Bradnack, Currie, Dixon, Durrant, Howarth, and Ward

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2002 were signed as a correct record.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Stuart.

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Durrant declared personal interests as Chair of Emmaus (located in Waterbeach and as Co-Chair of Cambridge Futures.

4 Public Question Time

No members of the public wished to address the Steering Group.

Other business – proposed settlement at Waterbeach

A presentation on the proposed new settlement at Waterbeach had been given to members before the Steering Group. The Steering Group debated the issues arising from the presentation.

The Director of Environment and Planning stated that there still was not enough information to make a decision in favour of either proposed new settlement and the Council's current position (agreed at the special Environment Scrutiny Committee on 20 September) on the matter was correct.

The Steering Group agreed that a briefing should be arranged for all members at the conclusion of the EIP.

5. Local Plan

The Steering Group considered the matters raised in the appendices to the report.

Appendix A

It was noted that the timetable would be influenced by the Government's proposed legislation on planning reform and the progress of the Structure Plan.

In response to a suggestion from Councillor Harrison, it was agreed that the Historic Core Appraisal be incorporated into the Plan Drafting/Progress table in Appendix A.

In discussing the member approval process for the various stages of the Local Plan, the Steering Group agreed that this needed to be worked-up taking account of the fact that the Constitution included approval of the Local Plan as a decision for the full Council.

Appendix B

Councillor Durrant suggested that the introduction chapter should be explicit about how it is a guide for land owners.

The Steering Group noted the chapter headings had been taken from the London Plan, and were an improvement on the last Plan. However, members thought further consideration should be given to the chapter 5 heading – designs on Cambridge.

In response to points made by Councillor Howarth, it was agreed that under chapter 6, transport, like waste, should be in brackets as both were County functions, although there would be reference made to transport policies and plans.

Appendices C/D

Councillor Howarth stated that the Council should be robust in its approach to sustainability indicators. It was acknowledged that there would be a tension between sustainability & RPG and the Regional Economic Strategy.

Appendix E

The Senior Planning Officer advised members that some consultation methodologies included in Table 2 were not appropriate for this stage in the plan process. In addition, some methodologies would not be possible because of lack of resources or time.

Members of the Steering Group made the following comments:

There was too much emphasis on consultation of the whole Plan. Further thought should be given to consulting on particular elements and to use other methods like Citizens Jury/opinion polls.

A media campaign to focus on particular themes.

An appropriate balance between the key stakeholders (who will be consulted as a matter of course) and the general public needs to be reached.

Audio/CD version could be considered

Reference to 1 to 1s to be re-phrased.

Area Committees should be consulted.

To include something on the Statement of Community Involvement.

The Steering Group noted that the Consultation Strategy would be reported back to its next meeting.

6. Dates of Future Meetings

The Steering Group agreed the following dates:

16th January 2003, at 6.00 pm
27th February 2003, at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.20 pm.

Chair