

## **Development Plan Steering Group – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009 @ 9:30am**

**Councillors Present:** Baker, Blair, Blencowe, Dryden, Reid (Chair) and Ward (Vice Chair)

**Also present:** Sara Cass (Planning Policy Manager)  
David Roberts (Head of Policy and Projects)  
Stephen Miles (Planning Officer)  
Myles Greensmith (Research & Information)  
Simon Bunn (Sustainable Urban Drainage Engineer)  
Clare Rankin (Cycling and Walking Development Officer)  
Emma Davies (Planning Officer)

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were fully approved.

### **2. Apologies**

None were received.

### **3. Declaration of Interest**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Dryden	Chairman of Colville Residents Association
Reid	Personal interest – SHLAA – Step-daughter owns property opposite Wilberforce Road
Baker	Personal interest – SHLAA relating to Emmanuel College-Member of Cambridge University

### **4. Public Questions**

None.

### **5. Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – Assessment Methodology & Criteria**

Stephen Miles introduced the item and stated that the SHLAA will form part of the evidence base for the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF). The SHLAA will demonstrate whether Cambridge is able to meet the housing targets contained in the East of England Plan as well as providing an evidence base to inform the review of the East of England Plan.

Cllr Ward questioned whether the Council had the resources to put into the assessment, how consistency of assessment could be ensured and what were the costs associated with setting up a Housing market Partnership (HMP). Sara Cass stated that extra resources have been put into the assessment as this is a key document in the Council's LDF and a check would be in place to ensure consistency. David Roberts stated that the costs associated with setting up a HMP would be trivial.

Cllr Reid stated that the process be amended to read "provisionally assess" prior to the final stage, that section 2 should be amended to say "... stakeholders including Residents Associations..." and that stage 6 should be amended to say "draft".

Cllr Blencowe questioned why we needed to find out the owners intentions regarding a site, as assessing sites as suitable was what had been done in the past. Stephen Miles stated that the SHLAA guidance says that we need to assess sites for achievability and availability as well as suitability and this means that we need to find out the owners intentions towards a site.

Cllr Blencowe stated that we needed to be clear what the purposes of the stages were. Cllr Reid stated that it will be for Ward Councillors, Stakeholders etc to inform the assessment at stages 5, 7 and 8 and Ward Councillors may want to reserve their final judgement on sites until stage 9 (or 6). Cllr Reid went on to state that Ward Councillors should be kept informed throughout the process.

Cllr Blair suggested that stages 7 and 8 be combined, Cllr Reid agreed. Cllr Reid stated that the HMP should include Residents Associations, and that this should be brought up at the next Residents association Forum in September. Cllr Reid stated that once the document reaches stage 5 it will be in the full public domain.

Attached to these minutes is an amended paragraph 3.15 setting out the process for the site assessment.

## **6. Comments on Draft Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4) Planning for prosperous Economies**

Myles Greensmith introduced the item and explained officers concerns over the likely impact upon the selective management policy and the undesirability of defining land targets at regional level. In response to Members concerns regarding whether the draft PPS could affect anything they had already made decisions on, he stated that this was not likely but it would affect future policy at local and regional level

Members discussed the section referring to town centre retailing. It was agreed sustainability issues need to be brought to the fore in the response. Members supported the views on the protection of local shops in sustainable locations. They stated that the section required more emphasis and linkage on travel distance to local shops and that as a result paragraph 5.26 required more strengthening.

It was agreed for paragraph 5.28 on PPG13 be removed and Cllr Reid requested a political steer on the report. Members agreed for it to come back to Chair and Spokes by 28 July 2009 in order to look at the final drafting before submission to DCLG.

### **7. Draft Flood and Water Management Bill Consultation Representation**

Simon Bunn introduced the report and stated that the floods in 2007 prompted a review by Sir Michael Pitt which led to the introduction of the Draft Flood and Water Management Bill. The Draft Bill will give Local Authorities more responsibility with local flood risk management. He stated that Cambridgeshire County Council were responsible for developing the local strategy and that Cambridge City Council had a duty to co-operate with all the relevant authorities. In response to a question by Members over how far the duty of co-operation stretched, Simon Bunn stated that they were seeking clarification from DEFRA as part of the consultation response.

There was discussion concerning SUDS that in 2011 with the publishing of National Standards it would be made mandatory on every development. If it did not conform then the approving body had the right to deny connection to the surface water sewerage system. Members asked how adopting the SUDS could be funded. David Roberts stated that the Draft Bill was not clear in this respect and this problematic lack of funding was emphasised within the consultation response. Simon Bunn then explained how surface water flood risk management would be approached and that high risk areas would need to be looked at first, including the assessment of highway drains.

**ACTION: Simon Bunn to write to Cambridgeshire County Council and follow it up to see where decision making is being made.**

### **8. Cycle Parking Guide for New Residential Developments**

Clare Rankin introduced the item and stated that they were asking for approval to consult stakeholders on the guide.

With regard to paragraph 4.1, Members requested that social landlords should be included as well as City Homes, and that residents associations also be consulted. In response to a question regarding the status of the report in planning terms, Clare Rankin stated that the guide would be a material

consideration. As part of the Development Framework process the cycle parking standards would be re-assessed and amended to reflect current best practice and possible SPD status for the guide would be reconsidered at this time.

## **9. Decarbonising Cambridge Study**

Emma Davies introduced the report and stated that they were looking to commission the study in order to provide a robust evidence base to support the formulation of robust planning policies to maximise the reduction of carbon emissions from all types of new development.

In response to a question from Members about the need for an evidence base, Emma stated that, amongst other things, the study would look at the economic viability of certain carbon reduction measures and would seek to produce a heat map of Cambridge, showing areas with potential for utilising technologies such as Combined Heat and Power. To give members an idea of what the final study might look like, Emma agreed to forward all Members a link to the recent study produced for Bristol City Council.