

Joint Plans Panel

Thursday, 29th November, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor J McKenna in the Chair

Councillors D Blackburn, C Campbell,
P Carlill, D Cohen, A Garthwaite,
M Gibson, R Grahame, P Gruen,
J Heselwood, A Hutchison, D Jenkins,
A Khan, T Leadley, R Lewis, E Nash,
D Ragan, K Ritchie, M Shazad,
P Wadsworth and P Wray

15 Election of the Chair

RESOLVED – That Councillor McKenna be elected Chair for the duration of the meeting.

16 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

17 Late Items

There were no late items.

18 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

No declarations of pecuniary interest were made.

19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from the following Councillors:
B. Anderson; Salma Arif; Andrew Carter, Dawn Collins, Caroline Gruen, Sharon Hamilton, Jackie Shemilt, Alice Smart, Fiona Venner, Neil Walshaw, Gerard Wilkinson.

20 Minutes - 26th July 2018

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2018 be approved as a correct record after a slight amendment to item 8 End of year performance report.

Fourth Paragraph second bullet point to read 'Fees for developers in an attempt to reduce the number of repeat site visits attended by Members'

Councillor Khan joined the meeting at 13:40

21 Matters arising

Minute no. 7 – Matters arising – Cllr. Grahame requested the toxicology report relating to the Grenfell Fire Tragedy.

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to be held on Date Not Specified

Minute no. 10 Planning Protocol – Members raised concerns in relation to the legal status of the Planning Protocol. Members were invited to email the Chief Planning Officer with specific details of what they would want in the protocol.

Minute no. 12 Annual Buildings at Risk Report – Members were informed that a cross party Member officer working group had been established. The group were working with Phil Ward, Team Leader in Design and Conservation to support a solution to save heritage buildings.

22 Delivering Employment & Skills opportunities through the Council's planning function

The Chief Officer Employment and Skills presented a paper which updated the Joint Plans Panel on the activity to create local employment and skills opportunities through the use of Section 106 Planning Agreements.

Members were also advised of early work to adopt a revised approach to target priority groups rather than localities to ensure that support is targeted to those furthest from the labour market to access new opportunities to more effectively contribute to the delivery of the Best Council Plan and the city's inclusive growth objectives.

Members were informed how the model works and provided with information on where and how many people had gained employment.

Members' discussions included:

- Concerns that the east side of the city which had 2 priority areas, where English was not a first language were not able to access the opportunities set out in the report;
- A number of initiatives were in place working with partners to deliver work opportunities to those who have barriers to looking for work;
- Leeds no longer has special areas and 'local' means the whole of Leeds;
- Living wage and the low pay challenge;
- Targeted areas included the inner city wards with higher priority;
- Third Sector provided opportunities and skills to work through Adult Learning Program;
- Sustainability of jobs and apprenticeships.

RESOLVED – To comment on the report and note the positive outcomes delivered to date.

Councillor R Lewis joined the meeting at 14:10 during this item.

23 Planning Services performance report- quarters 1 and 2, 2018-19

The Head of Development Management presented the report of the Chief Planning Officer which provided planning services performance for quarters 1 and 2, 2018-19.

Members were informed of following points:

- 114 major applications had been submitted in quarters 1 and 2;

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- Performance on determination of applications had slipped from the previous report at the end of 2017-18;
- Pre application enquiries had increased from the previous year on the same reporting period, although planning applications had dropped;
- There had been a significant reduction in appeals with 51% household appeals appealing against refusal of permission;
- 737 compliance cases had been received this was an increase on the previous year;
- Leeds continues to take a lead on formal enforcement action in comparison to other core cities with 58 enforcement and other notices being served so far;
- A complaints officer had now been employed, which has led to increased formal logging of complaints and resulted in the increase in reported complaints;
- The Planning Protocol is due to be formally launched in December 2018;
- CIL Guidance has been produced and provided to all Members;
- Still awaiting the Inspectors Report on the Site Allocation Plan following the hearing over the Summer.

Member's discussions were around the following points:

- Staffing: use of agency staff; need for experienced staff for areas such as enforcement; assistance from staff in other areas such as Environment Team;
- Amount of CIL available and to be collected
- Use of Sharepoint webpage to disseminate future guidance to Members;
- Neighbourhood Plans.

RESOLVED - To note the report and to receive a further performance report in six months.

24 The Letwin Review

The report of the Director of City Development set out the implications of the Letwin Review for Leeds.

Members were advised that the report had been published on 29th October 2018. The review had focused on large sites in the South of England defined as more than 1,500 dwellings.

It was noted that the definition of a large site currently only appertained to one in Leeds, The East Leeds Extension. A discussion at a meeting of the core cities had suggested that the threshold of a site should be reduced to 500 dwellings. Leeds City Council is to send an email to the Letwin Review to support 500 dwellings.

Members discussed the followings points:

- Build out rates;
- Poor report, disappointment with the review;
- Supply and demand of the markets.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report.

Members of Joint Plans Panel supported the email to the Letwin Review to support the proposal of 500 dwellings.

25 Site Allocations Plan Update

The report of the Chief Planning Officer presented an update on the Site Allocations Plan.

Members were advised that Leeds would not be proceeding with the broad areas of search. However, at this stage all other allocations for housing would remain as proposed.

Members discussed the need to engage with public health, and schools etc. when developing schemes.

RESOLVED – To note the Inspectors initial views on the Site Allocations Plan.

26 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be decided on at the Annual General Meeting of full Council in May 2019.

The meeting concluded at 15:25