

**LOCAL PLAN CABINET WORKING GROUP**

**HELD: Tuesday, 18 October 2016**

Start: 6.30 pm

Finish: 8.25 pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillor: J Hodson (Chairman)  
G Dowling (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: J Davis N Furey  
E Pope D Westley  
A Yates

Officers in attendance: Director of Development & Regeneration (Mr. J. Harrison)  
Strategic Planning & Implementation Manager  
(Mr. P. Richards)  
Assistant Strategic Planning & Implementation Manager  
(Mr. S. Benge)  
Member Services/Civic Support Officer (Mrs. J.A. Ryan)

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Ashcroft.

**2 URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items of business.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

**4 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference of the Local Plan Cabinet Working Group were submitted as below:-

1. To consider all policy documents arising from the adoption of the Local Plan and on any future updates.
2. To consider all matters, other than those already dealt with under the existing scheme of delegation, related to the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) and the identification of possible sites to meet proven need.
3. To report recommendations to Cabinet where appropriate.

**AGREED:** That the Terms of Reference be noted.

**5 PURPOSE OF THE GROUP**

Members received a presentation on the purpose of the Group by the Strategic Planning and Implementation Manager where the following points were raised:-

- The current Local Plan was 3 years old and that the process was starting over again for our next Local Plan.
- The timetable involved was a challenging timetable
- The importance of feeding back to other Members not on the Working Group
- Workshops and exhibitions would be held
- Getting accurate information out to the public was paramount

**RESOLVED:** That the presentation be noted.

**6 INTRODUCING THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW**

The Strategic Planning and Implementation Manager gave Members an introduction on the Local Plan Review during which the following comments were noted:-

- That there was not a problem with the current Local Plan, the current Local Plan was working well and bringing forward sites
- However, the Council needs to be proactive in looking ahead to a new Local Plan before the current Local Plan becomes out-of-date

**RESOLVED:** That the introduction into the Local Plan Review be noted.

**7 TIMESCALES**

The Strategic Planning and Implementation Manager discussed with Members of the Working Group the timescales involved in the implementation of the new Local Plan and the following comments were noted:-

- Timescales involved in preparing a new Local Plan and the adoption date would be 2019-2022
- The fact that sub-regional governance structures are changing and the impact this would have
- Ageing population and the impact this would have on health

**RESOLVED:** That the timescales be noted.

**8 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Strategic Planning and Implementation Manager discussed with Members of the Working Group the involvement and role Members would have and the public consultation process and the following comments were noted:-

- Member involvement and the involvement of Cabinet at every stage
- Public consultation at every stage
- Regular meetings of the Working Group needed to be held, wide range of matters to be discussed
- The importance of engaging with key groups, local community groups and Parish Councils
- The importance of Regulation 18 of the Local Planning Regulations – obliged to take on everything submitted in next 2 years

**RESOLVED:** That the points raised be noted.

**9 EVIDENCE**

The Strategic Planning and Implementation Manager discussed with Members of the Working group the evidence gathering process that would be carried out.

**RESOLVED:** This be noted.

**10 INITIAL THOUGHTS ON ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

Members received a presentation from the Strategic Planning and Implementation Manager and Members of the Working Group were asked for their initial thoughts on the issues and options, the following comments were noted:-

- What Members wanted West Lancashire to look like and we are striving to achieve and aim for
- To build on the Corporate and Objective Strategy
- Proposed Boundary Reviews and how these would affect West Lancashire
- The current Local Plan was a good starting point for us
- Size of sites, smaller sites often more acceptable than larger sites and the mix on sites
- Release of secured land, scale of developments and land auction sites
- Innovation and integration in the community was paramount
- Climate change issues
- The fact that population figures were growing, people were living longer and the structure of household formations
- Infrastructure of highways was a big concern and the importance of also implementing the railway structure
- Making sure sites allocated were not liable to flooding was a big issue
- Strategic options for quantum was an important issue

(Note: Councillor Pope left the meeting during consideration of this item and was not present for the remainder of the meeting).

**11      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

AGREED:      That the date of the next meeting will be the 7 December 2016 at 18.30pm.

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**- CHAIRMAN -**