

Local Plan Committee

Wednesday 16th October 2019 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, The Cube, Corby

Councillors present: Councillors Dady, Beeby, Watt and Addison

13. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Keane

14. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any interest they might have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate whether these were prejudicial or non-prejudicial, the nature of the interest and whether they intend to participate in the relevant agenda item. No declarations were made.

15. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Local Plan meeting held on 21st August 2019 copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2019, copies of which had been circulated to Members, be agreed as a correct record.

Councillor Dady wanted to thank planning officers for progressing the Local Plan to this stage.

16. Part 2 Local Plan for Corby – Submission for Independent Examination

The Principal Planning Officer (Local Plan) presented information from the Regulation 19 consultation on the Publication Draft (Pre-Submission) Part 2 Local Plan for Corby and sought the endorsement of the submission documents to be referred to Full Council to approve submission to the Secretary of State.

Six weeks public consultation on the final draft of the Part 2 Local Plan closed on 16th September 2019. 30 respondents made representations, generating over 100 individual comments.

The main issues arising in the representations were discussed, including responses related to green infrastructure corridors, housing, settlement boundaries, retail network, monitoring and mapping.

It is considered that no fundamental issues of soundness have been raised as a result of the consultation that would preclude the submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State. Substantial changes cannot be made at this advanced stage, however a Schedule of Proposed Changes has been prepared to submit with the Plan to provide the Inspector with the most up-to-date position, to address any issues that have been raised through the consultation and other changes to ensure clarity and consistency.

Officers are involved in ongoing discussions with a number of the individuals and organisations that submitted representations. The aim of these discussions will be to refine and agree the Schedule of Proposed Changes. To avoid delays it is considered that the approval of the Schedule of Proposed Changes should be delegated as set out in this report's recommendations.

Subject to approval by Local Plan Committee and Full Council the Part 2 Local Plan would be submitted next month. An independent Planning Inspector will be appointed to undertake the examination.

A number of documents will be submitted alongside the plan and the proposed changes as defined by regulations and recommended by Government.

During the run up to submission and during its examination, it may be necessary to make appropriate amendments to the document, for example, in response to changes to national policy and advice. One of the recommendations of this report seeks approval for the Head of Planning and Environmental Services to provide further information or make further changes

to the Part 2 Local Plan in consultation with the Chair of the Local Plan Committee prior to, and during, the public examination on the Plan. This provides a mechanism for further explaining the Council's position that the Part 2 Local Plan is sound and legally compliant and for making responses by the Council to events such as unexpected changes to national policy or agreeing Statements of Common Ground with key stakeholders.

Members raised questions in relation to green infrastructure corridors and the retail impact threshold. Officers confirmed that developer contributions in relation to open space provision will be directly related to the needs arising from the development. Further explanation on the operation of the policy may be provided in a Supplementary Planning Document.

Members discussed leisure facilities in the Borough.

The Chair was pleased to note that the proposed changes did not require further public consultation or sustainability appraisal prior to submission.

RESOLVED that:

It is recommended that Members:

Consider the main issues arising from the consultation on the Publication Draft (Pre-Submission) Part 2 Local Plan for Corby, undertaken in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, and the proposed Schedule of Proposed Changes set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

Recommend to the Council's Full Council, to the submission of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby and Policies Map, together with all supporting studies and documentation for public examination.

Approves the preparation of a Schedule of Proposed Changes, based on Appendix 1 of this report and officer discussion with the organisations and individuals that have submitted comments on these documents.

Grants delegated authority to the Head of Planning and Environmental Services to agree, in conjunction with the Chair of the Local Plan Committee, that the Schedule of Proposed Changes is submitted with the Part 2 Local Plan and Policies Map for public examination.

That the Council request the Examination Inspector, under Section 20(7) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to recommend any modifications to the draft Local Plan, which they consider are required in order to resolve problems that would otherwise make the Plan unsound or not legally compliant.

17. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.