



Doncaster
Council

Councillor Kevin Rodgers
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Date: 14th May 2019

Mayor Ros Jones
Floor 4
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Dear Ros,

PUBLICATION (REGULATION 19) OF THE DONCASTER LOCAL PLAN 2015-2035

I wish to inform you of the outcome of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting held on 7th May to consider the draft Local plan.

In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, the Committee undertook a strategic overview focussing on the extent to which the Plan:

- Was consistent with relevant legislation, guidance, locally agreed policies and relevant evidence;
- Would support the physical development of and meet the Borough's wider objectives and ambitions; and
- Had provided an opportunity to seek the views of all relevant groups and stakeholders and demonstrated that issues raised through consultation and engagement had been taken in to account.

The meeting did not set out to undertake a review of individual sites or allocations or provide a forum to repeat specific elements of the individual consultation exercises. However, prior to and during the meeting Members were reminded that any concerns, queries or issues relating to the Local Plan could be raised with officers for consideration before the Plan is considered by Cabinet or presented to Council. All Councillors were invited to attend the OSMC meeting and submit in advance of the meeting any questions they wished to raise. I have attached for your information a copy of both questions and responses.

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I have detailed below in bold text, the recommendations agreed at the meeting with relevant commentary underneath:

Consultation:

Recommendation 1: That the Local Plan consultation process be reviewed to identify how future consultation and engagement and the involvement of elected Members on major policies and Plans could be improved.

Recommendation 2: That further liaison be undertaken with the Communications Team to support future engagement processes and our duty to consult in respect of the Local Plan.

OSMC recognised the challenges of undertaking effective Borough wide consultation and engagement and receiving feedback on such a complex Plan. It was also recognised that as the Plan had been developed following a number of consultation exercises undertaken over the past 5 years, there was likely to be variations in effectiveness and engagement associated with each consultation exercise. In respect of widening the number of targeted groups of consultees, it was suggested that utilising contact deals and seeking advice from the Council's Communications Team would be beneficial.

Notwithstanding the difficulties of actively engaging residents in meaningful consultation it was recognised there were a number of examples where consultation had taken place where there was no statutory requirement to do so, e.g. Site Selection Methodologies, Homes and Settlements etc. and this was seen as a positive step.

Brexit:

Recommendation 3: That the Local Plan make reference, as best we know, to the potential impacts of Brexit particularly as a potential risk and/or impact this this may have on our economy and the Local Plan.

The Committee acknowledged the impact of Brexit on the Local Plan was an unknown. However, it recommended that this should be referred to and acknowledged in the Local Plan for completeness. The Committee recognised that flexibility existed to review the Plan to ensure it remained responsive to any significant changes that may arise from Brexit.

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Flood Risk:

Recommendation 4: That a report be presented to a future Overview and Scrutiny meeting updating on work being undertaken to improve flood infrastructure and to address flooding issues across the Borough.

Discussion took place in respect of the impact of flooding and how this restricted development in certain areas of the Borough. The Committee was informed that the Council's Drainage Team was working with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment to identify the availability of Environment Agency funding to bring about improvements to strategic flooding infrastructure, which may ultimately affect the Borough's flood zone maps.

Public Health:

Recommendation 5: That the use of electoral ward as the defined area in relation to restriction of hot food take-aways and fast food outlets be amended to another more appropriate measure.

Policy 25: Food and Drink Uses paragraph 8.27 of the draft Local Plan states "Planning Permission will not be supported for A5 use in *Wards* where there is more than 10% of the Year 6 Pupils classed as obese. "

Concern was raised that due to the differing size and diversity of many of our wards this geographical measure may not be consistent across the Borough or have the desired impact. It was recommended that an alternative measure be identified to take account of ward differentials.

The Committee also acknowledged the positive involvement of Public Health within the drafting of the Local Plan.

Reviewing & Monitoring:

Recommendation 6: That the Annual Monitoring Report be presented to Overview and Scrutiny to provide an opportunity for Members to consider the performance and effectiveness of the Local Plan and the extent to which it continues to meet the Borough's needs and objectives.

OSMC received examples of how the Plan had taken account of some of the Borough's key challenges e.g. balancing physical growth against environmental impacts, the need for effective transport and accessibility across the Borough to deliver jobs for our communities, etc. It also recognised the Plan was flexible and responsive to significant changes and could be reviewed to take account of these.

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To ensure elected Members remain engaged and have the opportunity to review how the Local Plan continues to meet the needs of the Borough, the Committee suggested the Annual Monitoring Report be considered at a future OSMC meeting.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Scott Cardwell, Jane Stimpson, Jonathon Clarke and Roy Sykes for attending the meeting and responding to the questions and issues raised by Members.

I would be grateful if you could consider OSMC's recommendations and provide the new Chair of OSMC with a written response to the issues raised by 15th June.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Rodgers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor Kevin Rodgers
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

cc OSMC Members
Cabinet Members
Jo Miller, Directors and BAs.
Scott Fawcus, Assistant Director - Legal & Democratic Services
Scott Cardwell, Assistant Director of Development