

**TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING PANEL**

**Thursday, 22nd January, 2009**

**Present:** Cllr M A C Balfour (Chairman), Cllr B J Luker (Vice-Chairman), Cllr P F Bolt, Cllr D W P Evans, Cllr H S Rogers, Cllr D Thornewell and Cllr M S Worrall.

Councillors Mrs Anderson, Baldock, Court, Heslop and Mrs Oakley were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Simpson and Sullivan.

**PART 1 - PUBLIC**

**LDF  
09/001      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**LDF  
09/002      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Panel held on 8 October 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET**

**LDF  
09/003      LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME REVIEW - 2009**

The Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure reported that the Local Development Scheme (LDS) approved in 2007 pre-dated the Local Development Framework Regulations of July 2008 which introduced new procedures, the details of which were summarised. The Panel was advised that it would be in the Council's interest to ensure that the LDS was realigned with the new Regulations in order to demonstrate that the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document was being prepared in accordance with an approved LDS. In addition it was noted that the award of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant was likely to be determined on the basis of an approved LDS.

Consideration was given to the recommended revisions to the current LDS set out in Annex 1 to the report. Reference was made to the revised timescale for submission and adoption together with the implications for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents.

**RECOMMENDED:** That a revised Local Development Scheme be prepared and submitted to the Secretary of State on the basis of the revised programme set out in the Annex to the report and including reference to the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Documents referred to in 1.3.3 of the report.

**\*Referred to Cabinet**

**LDF  
09/004**

**MANAGING DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT - PRE-SUBMISSION  
PUBLICATION**

Further to Minute LDF 08/003 of the meeting of the Panel held on 8 October 2008, the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure, supplemented by an illustrated presentation, introduced a draft of the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document (DPD) with a view to adoption by the Council for the purposes of publication for public comment prior to being submitted to the Secretary of State.

The report indicated that the Managing Development and the Environment DPD would replace most of the saved Local Plan policies but also contained new thinking on planning for climate change, progressed the findings of the Open Space Strategy and introduced the concept of a Green Infrastructure Plan in respect of biodiversity enhancement. The Panel discussed each chapter of the Plan which addressed the five main policy areas of climate change, natural environment, spatial quality, development in the countryside and open space. A supplementary report presented a final draft of the Green Infrastructure Network Diagram which had been prepared following a successful stakeholder workshop on 12 January. Members made a number of comments seeking clarification of the Diagram. A further supplementary report recommending a number of detailed amendments to the DPD policy annexes on Open Spaces was withdrawn and a comprehensive list would be brought forward to the Policy Overview Committee.

During consideration of the policy area on Development in the Countryside a question was raised concerning the removal of disused rural buildings which had been erected as permitted development. The officers undertook to investigate the matter and report to the Policy Overview Committee.

The report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure concluded by outlining the overall statutory process, the Sustainability Appraisal of the DPD during the course of its preparation and arrangements for Pre-submission Publication.

**RECOMMENDED:** That



(1) the Managing Development and the Environment DPD be commended to Cabinet and Council for adoption for the purposes of Pre-submission Publication and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State and as a material consideration for Development Control;

(2) authority be delegated to the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure to respond to representations received in response to Pre-submission Publication and to put forward to the Inspector any changes that respond to those representations provided such changes raised no fundamental issues of policy, in which case a report back to Members would be necessary; and

(3) subject to clarifying the graphical presentation of a number of features, the Green Infrastructure Network Diagram be recommended for approval by the Council for inclusion in the Managing Development and the Environment DPD.

**\*Referred to Cabinet**

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**

**LDF  
09/005**

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

No items were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2105 hours