

Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum Working Group
23 October 2018, Miners' Hall

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: John Ashby, Pippa Bell, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Ann Evans, Peter Jackson, John Lowe, David Miller, John Pacey, Matthew Phillips.

Apologies: Angela Tracy.

2. Notes of working group meeting on 16 October 2018

- a) **Accuracy:** The notes were agreed as a true record and **Sue** will post them on the website.
- b) **Matters arising:** None

3. Timetables for Neighbourhood Plan and County Local Plan

It was **agreed** to accept a number of suggestions from John P and to add the *Sustainability Appraisal, Screening Report* and *Scoping Report* to the list of documents to be submitted. **John A** will revise the *Scoping Report*. **John L** will update and circulate the revised timetable in time for next week's meeting.

4. Consultation Statement

John L had circulated a first draft of the initial sections of the Statement. This was discussed and a number of suggestions were made. It was **agreed** that **John L** would incorporate these in a revised version of the Statement in time for next week's meeting.

5. Basic Conditions Statement

The five basic conditions that a neighbourhood plan has to satisfy are:

- a) Conformity with the NPPF policies;
- b) General conformity with the strategic policies of the local development plan;
- c) Contribution to sustainable development;
- d) Compatibility with EU regulations;
- e) Compliance with prescribed conditions relating to protected habitats.

Our position in relation to each of these seems to be as follows:

- a) The Justification section in each Theme discusses the relevant NPPF policies. **Sue** will distribute a final version of the plan and **all theme convenors** are asked to check conformity with NPPF policies and also ensure that all references are to the 2018 version of the NPPF.
- b) The relevant policies here are the saved policies of the City of Durham local plan that are compliant with the NPPF. It might not be the case that any of these are considered strategic but in any case, so long as our policies are in general conformity with them, we satisfy this basic condition. Again, the Justification section in each Theme discusses the relevant saved policies, so **all theme convenors** are asked to check general conformity with them and identify any that might be considered strategic.
- c) The *Sustainability Appraisal* from AECOM should enable us to satisfy this basic condition.

We have Theme 1 that deals explicitly with sustainable development and there are references to it in other themes such as Housing and Transport.

- d) **John A** will check that the *Screening Report* deals with this. John P has drafted a suggested way of demonstrating that our plan satisfies this basic condition, but we need more guidance about exactly which EU directives are applicable to Our Neighbourhood. **Ann** will check this and **John A** is seeking further guidance from AECOM.
- e) There are no such habitats in Our Neighbourhood so this condition does not apply. (See email from Sue 23 Oct)

John P tabled a very useful paper setting out the concerns expressed by DCC in their letter of 18 December 2017 and Appendix A to that letter. It was **agreed** that we need to complete the Consultation Statement and the Basic Conditions Statement (BCS) before we are in a position to answer all the points listed. We also need to check the notes of the meetings attended by Carole Dillon and other DCC officers.

To ensure that our BCS is fully sound, it was **agreed** that we should seek an independent opinion from a suitably qualified person. **John A** will follow this up.

6. Any other business

- David reported that he is meeting Angela on Thursday to discuss the introduction to “Part B”. **All** are invited to give David views about projects as soon as possible.
- Sue asked **all** to check the full plan she has circulated for accuracy and consistency. In particular, we need to ensure consistency of referencing the DCC local plan. Also, there is some current variation in the internal numbering and layout of our policies. **Theme convenors** were asked to review their policies and let Sue know their preferences. These will then need standardising as far as possible.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 30 October at 9.00 am at the Miners’ Hall.