

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
6 SEPTEMBER 2011	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

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LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SCRUTINY GROUP

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report requires the Committee to consider whether the Local Development Framework Scrutiny Group is still required to continue or whether it should be discontinued and its work undertaken by the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee considers whether or not there is a requirement for the continuation of the Local Development Framework Scrutiny Group.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In November 2008 and April 2009 the Scrutiny Committee agreed to the establishment of the Local Development Framework Scrutiny Group. The terms of reference for the current group were agreed in July 2009 and are:

Purpose

1. To consider and comment at each relevant stage in the preparation of the Peterborough Local Development Framework Development Plan Documents.
2. To scrutinise the relevant key aspects of the Regional Spatial Strategy review.
3. To provide updates on the work of the scrutiny group to the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee as and when required. The Scrutiny Group will be required to produce a final report for the Committee detailing the work it has undertaken.

Membership

Membership of the Group will be up to six members drawn from the non-executive members.

- 3.2 The current membership of the group is:

- Cllr Burton (replaced Cllr Collins)
- Cllr Ash
- Cllr JR Fox
- Cllr Harrington
- Cllr Sandford

- 3.3 The group last met on 18 October 2010 and 29 November 2010 to consider the following:

- Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)
- Planning Policies DPD

- Village Design Supplementary Planning Document

The Committee should note that under the new Localism Bill which is currently going through Parliament the Regional Spatial Strategy will no longer be required and therefore this would not form part of the terms of reference going forward.

When the group was originally set up it was agreed that the Scrutiny Group would complete its work by no later than 31 December 2009 when it would be disbanded. This was reviewed in July 2009 and a decision was taken not to have a time limit on the existence of the group but to be reviewed annually.

Officers have found the group to be useful in improving plan preparation and a convenient way of seeking Members input into Strategic Plans and Policies. It has also provided more flexibility when trying to meet tight time scales for approval of Strategic Plans and Policies.

However the Committee may now consider that the Council's best interests would now be served by the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee itself providing the strategic and high level over-view, scrutiny and monitoring of the Peterborough Local Development Framework Development Plan Documents rather than a small Working Group.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The Committee to decide if the Local Development Framework Scrutiny Group (LDFSG) is still relevant for the purpose it was originally set up for and therefore should continue to exist, or if the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee itself should now provide the strategic and high level over-view, scrutiny and monitoring of the Peterborough Local Development Framework Development Plan Documents and therefore disband the LDFSG.

If the Committee agree to continue with the LDFSG then the terms of reference must be considered and amended to provide a clear purpose for the group going forward.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 None

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Minutes of the Meeting of the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 20 July 2009.

8. APPENDICES

None