

SUPPLEMENTARY ANNEXE TO APPENDIX F

EXECUTIVE – 7 DECEMBER 2010

ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF) CORE STRATEGY - PREFERRED OPTIONS AND DRAFT POLICIES REPORT

Town and Country - Amount and Location of Housing

1. There was concern from the Committee that between now and 2027 there would be a lot of changes and the future needs for young people should be identified and met within these policies.
2. The Committee felt that the Council should drive for more affordable housing in settlements, particularly for first time buyers.
3. There was some concern from some of the Committee about the robustness of the consultation process and thus evidence base for support of the preferred option.
4. A Member of the Committee expressed concern and shock about the housing numbers proposed, where these were proposed to be built and the evidence base behind these proposals. It was felt that other evidence, such as the Strategic Housing Marketing Assessment had been ignored in setting these targets and was based only on a very small percentage of consultation responses which didn't represent the views of the Borough as a whole.
5. There was also concern from a Member about how the preferred option was chosen, as it could appear that the sixth option received most votes but these were discounted. In view of the map showing where Consultees had responded from, this Member also felt that the consultation was shown to be flawed and should be revisited.

Living and Working - Affordable housing and other housing needs

1. The Committee was concerned about ensuring there was a mix of housing in settlements and the need for more smaller family homes versus flats across the Borough.
2. There was some concern expressed about the numbers and thresholds proposed for affordable homes as it was felt that the need for them in settlements was far higher. It was, therefore, felt that there needed to be a more innovative way of setting the numbers on a development site rather than gap filling.
3. The Committee considered that the thresholds were reasonable but, there was concern that the baseline figure was insufficient to deliver the corporate objective of increasing the number of affordable homes built in the Borough and should be reviewed. Although, it was noted that there was a fine balance between building affordable housing and not discouraging new development.
4. The Committee would like the document to look more at how it addresses the aging population and also some clarification of the statistics. Some Members felt that there was an underlying imbalance in looking at demand as some

houses were currently under occupied and would, shortly, become available for development.

Living and Working - Employment

1. The Committee supported SMART growth on Dunsfold Park and felt that this should be carried out on similar sites across the Borough.
2. Some Members suggested that the consultation document should acknowledge other uses including the development of an aviation centre and not just mixed use on Dunsfold Park.

Environment, biodiversity and climate change

1. The Committee felt that the target for 10% of energy renewables was set too low and should be set higher. It was also felt that developers should be enforced to deliver this.
2. The Committee also felt that there should be an increased focus on provisions for pedestrians and cyclists to ensure that their needs were catered for.

Other issues

1. The Committee questioned the timing of the consultation when there was still information awaited from Central Government. The Portfolio Holder advised Members that the steer was to move forward with this process and not wait until further information was received as, for example, the Localism Bill, would not receive royal assent until November 2011.