

Luton & South Beds Joint Committee
Notes of the Meeting of the Member Steering Group held at the Council
Offices, Dunstable on 13th June 2011

Present:-

Members:-

Cllr Roy Davis (Chair) (LBC)
 Cllr Nigel Young (CBC)
 Cllr Ken Matthews (CBC)
 Cllr Dave Taylor (LBC)
 Cllr Michael Dolling (LBC)
 Cllr Sian Timoney (LBC)
 Cllr Tom Shaw (LBC)

Officers:-

Lachlan Robertson (JTU)
 Chris Pagdin (LBC)
 Trevor Saunders (CBC)
 Phil Robinson (for item 5 only) (CBC)

		Actions
1.	<p><u>Matters arising from the previous MSG meeting held on 29th March 2011</u></p> <p>None</p>	
2.	<p><u>Presentation on the Progress on the Examination of the Core Strategy.</u></p> <p>LR gave a presentation on the progress up to date. Most of the members present attended the Exploratory Meeting. Material from the Exploratory Meeting is available on the website.</p> <p>There was discussion about the way forward and an agreement that the partners wanted to continue working together to completion, in order to get the best outcome for both authorities. The importance of having an adopted Core Strategy for the authorities was agreed.</p> <p>It was agreed that a decision making sub committee of four Joint Committee members should be formed to deal with delegated authority. Other Joint Committee members will have the right to attend the meetings, but will not have a vote.</p>	

	<p>Dates for the meeting will be notified to all members and a report will be produced at the end of each meeting.</p> <p><u>Action: agree a Sub Committee</u></p> <p>KM raised the point that the Inspector has to make his decision in accordance with the law at that time, therefore might it be possible to delay until the Regional Strategy RS has been formally revoked and then resubmit the Core Strategy.</p> <p>It was agreed that legal advice should be sought on this but that the final decision could be down to the individual Inspector as the plan was produced prior to the RS being revoked.</p> <p><u>Action: Legal advice as above.</u></p> <p>The Inspector's concern that Luton Members had issues about the Core Strategy was discussed. The meeting discussed the need to re-visit the other sites proposed during the process.</p> <p>NY suggested preparing a Memorandum of Understanding MOU in order to agree the basis for such a review to take place. This was agreed in principle.</p> <p>There was discussion around the options available, to defer or withdraw the Core Strategy , and their possible outcomes.</p> <p>LR gave clarification on what constituted a major and minor change and how each would affect the process of Examination currently in play.</p> <p>LR suggested that promoting fundamental changes would require a withdrawal.</p> <p>There was concern expressed in the meeting that deferring the Core Strategy too far in time could cause more delays as changes arising from the enactment of the Localism Bill could impact on the process.</p> <p>There was some agreement that the intended "duty to co-operate" part of the Localism Bill could improve working arrangements with neighbouring Local Authorities.</p>	<p>LR</p> <p>LR</p>
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<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Draft Reports to the Joint Committee:- progress report and regional strategy report.</u> It was agreed that the following reports should go to the listed Joint Committee Meetings.</p> <p><u>24th June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress update report • Regional Strategy Implications report • Delegated Authority report • Audit reports – split into two separate reports. <p><u>29th July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Changes report including Sundon Quarry and North Luton proposed changes • Century Park • Contingency Plan • Transport Modelling • Timeline for further work in light of agreed changes. <p>It was agreed that the new sub-Committee would receive reports on the outstanding legal issues and their resolution.</p>	<p>LR</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Proposed revised Delegated Authority and Sub-Committee terms of reference</u></p> <p>Agreed to put to Committee with a change to include that other Joint Committee Members have a right to attend and observe the Sub-Committee.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Budget and Audit</u></p> <p>PR presented the budget and confirmed the Auditors had agreed the effectiveness of the Councils Audit control.</p>	<p>PR</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>There were no further items of business.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>T.B.C</p>	