

CABINET – 18th January 2007

Supplementary Report of the Director of Development

ITEM 11 CHARNWOOD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – REVIEW OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME- COMMENTS FROM PLANNING INSPECTORATE (PINS)

Purpose of the Report

This supplementary report provides additional information to the report of the Director of Development, circulated with the agenda (Item 11). It concerns comments from the Planning Inspectorate.

Recommendation

In the light of the comments from PINs, the following recommendation replaces recommendation 1 in the report of the Director of Development (Agenda Item 11).

- I. that the Local Development Scheme attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved, subject to the Loughborough Science Park DPD being deleted and that the allocation of land for a second Science Park be addressed through the Allocations DPD.

Reason

- I. To ensure that the Local Development Scheme provides a realistic programme for the preparation of Development Plan Documents and to address concerns raised by PINs in relation to the preparation of a Science Park DPD alongside the Core Strategy.

Background

In preparing the revised Local Development Scheme discussions have been held with the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM). The proposed revisions to the scheme reflect these discussions.

GOEM have recently received further comments from PINs on the proposed revisions. PINs will be responsible for providing an independent Inspector for the Examinations in Public into the various Development Plan Documents. PINs have no comments on the proposed timetables for producing the Core Strategy, Allocations and Development Control DPDs.

However they have raised concerns about the proposed submission of the Loughborough Science Park DPD alongside the Core Strategy document. These concerns reflect the experience of inspectors so far in examining core strategies and allocations documents

and the risks associated with “twin tracking” documents. There is a risk that the Inspector may conclude that he is unable to proceed with the examination of the Science Park DPD until he has reached a view and reported on the Core Strategy examination. There is also a risk that if the Core Strategy were found to be unsound work on the Science Park DPD would need to be aborted and the examination cancelled.

In view of this advice, the Local Development Scheme program should be revised so that the Loughborough Science Park DPD follows the Core Strategy. This would align the preparation of the Science Park DPD with the Allocation DPD which will deal with other housing and employment allocations. It would therefore be logical to amalgamate these documents and prepare one Allocations DPD to set out detailed proposals for housing and employment, including the Loughborough Science Park.

Under the revised program the Allocations DPD would be submitted to the Secretary of State in May 2010, following the Core Strategy, with a view to adoption in July 2011. The Core Strategy, in outlining the vision and strategic proposals for the area and setting the key issues for development control, would provide a framework for the determination of key strategic development proposals such as the Science Park where necessary.

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks
Borough of Charnwood Local Development Scheme, Oct 2005;

Officer(s) to Contact: Guy Longley (01509 634763)
Guy.longley@charnwood.gov.uk