

**Place Shaping Working Group Minutes  
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council  
Tuesday 31 March 2015**

**Councillors Present:**

Councillor J W Boyce (Chair)  
Councillor L A Bentley  
Councillor D M Carter  
Councillor Mrs JM Gore  
Councillor J Kaufman  
Councillor Mrs L Kaufman  
Councillor Mrs S B Morris

**Officers Present:**

Adrian Thorpe (Planning Policy and Regeneration Manager)  
Anne Court (Director of Services)  
Ed Morgan (Planning Policy Officer)

**1. Apologies:**

Councillor M Charlesworth  
Councillor L Darr

Anita Pathak-Mould (Head of Community)  
Daniel Britton (Economic Regeneration Officer)  
Jamie Carr (Planning Policy Officer)  
John Dickson (Section 151 Officer)  
Judith Sturley (Senior Economic Regeneration Officer)  
Mark Hryniw (Town Centre Manager)

Not in Attendance:

Councillor R Thakor

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**2. Minutes and matters arising**

2.1 None.

**3. Presentation by Andrew Wright, POS Enterprises on behalf of Planning Advisory Service (PAS) – Plan Review Support**

3.1 Councillor Boyce introduced Andrew Wright to the group and explained that his services have been commissioned through the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) to provide support to the Council by offering 'critical friend' advice in project planning the Local Plan review and to ensure that it will be fully in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).

3.2 Andrew Wright presented his report to Members of the group, covering the following:

- Duty to Co-operate
- Objective Assessment of Housing Need
- Risks / Key Issues
- Recommendations

### **Duty to Co-operate**

3.2 With regards to Duty to Co-operate, Andrew Wright noted that Leicester and Leicestershire authorities are engaging at a strategic level via the Strategic Planning Group. This is most certainly a positive relationship in respect of the Duty.

3.3 In addition, the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Planning Group and its relationship with the Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership (LLEP) demonstrates collective leadership and joined-up thinking between the LLEP and the Districts.

### **Objective Assessment of Housing Need**

3.4 Andrew Wright noted that Leicester and Leicestershire Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) that has been written by external consultants and which identifies an objectively assessed housing need for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment has been considered in relation to an Examination in Public for Charnwood Borough Council's emerging Core Strategy.

### **Risks / Key Issues**

3.5 Andrew Wright stated that in the future, should an authority identify an issue in its ability to accommodate its Objectively Assessed Need there may be a need for joined-up thinking and strategic agreement through the Duty to Co-operate. Oadby and Wigston will need to consider its ability to meet its Objectively Assessed Need over its forthcoming Plan period. He also noted that infrastructure to support large scale growth to the south and east of Leicester is not as developed as it is to the west (M1) and north (A46).

3.6 In plan-making terms, Andrew Wright said that it is still widely accepted that Local Planning Authorities should be seeking to plan ahead to 15+ years. He noted that the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities all have varying timescales to deliver their emerging Local Plan's. However, in the case of Oadby and Wigston, he considered it appropriate to be looking to develop a Plan that works towards demonstrating the ability to accommodate housing and employment growth up to 2036.

3.7 Andrew Wright considered that at a Strategic level it is important that all partners have an understanding of the various risks and how these will be

mitigated. This requires clear collaboration under the Duty and an ability to respond to and changes, matters and issues as they arise.

- 3.8 Andrew Wright reiterated that it is imperative that the Council takes a strong and robust approach to Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment to support the delivery of the new Local Plan.

#### **4. Network Rail East Midlands Route Study**

- 4.1 Adrian Thorpe presented this report to Members. Network Rail is conducting a public consultation on their long term key outputs over the next 30 years. The document sets out the potential for new services and presents a series of investment choices for consideration by funders.
- 4.2 Adrian Thorpe explained to Members that the Council has until Tuesday 28 April 2015 to make representations to Network Rail and therefore, invited comments from Members on the key issues would have an impact upon the Borough of Oadby and Wigston.
- 4.3 Members agreed that it is important for the Council to submit comments and requested that Adrian Thorpe circulate Network Rail's consultation document to all Members so that they could inform the Council's response.
- 4.4 Adrian Thorpe agreed to update Members on this item at the next Place Shaping Working Group.

#### **5. Oadby Grange Country Park – Update**

- 5.1 Adrian Thorpe presented this report to Members. The Council is negotiating with the land owner over this area of the Borough and considering options for management of the land in the future. The Council's Greening of the Borough Committee is now to lead on this matter, but for information, Members considered the options that are currently being decided upon.
- 5.2 The Management Plan that is being drawn up for this area will determine the future management of the country park and therefore Councillor Boyce requested that it considers the various scenarios in order to ensure that the Council is clear on what its responsibilities will be in the future.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

- 6.1 None.

#### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

- 7.1 The next Place Shaping Work Group is proposed for Thursday 11 June, 2015, 18:30, Committee Room, Council Offices, Wigston (To be confirmed).