

London Borough of Sutton
Planning Advisory Group – 15 September 2009

Report of the Executive Head of Planning and Transportation
CORE STRATEGY – INSPECTOR’S REPORT

Ward Location: Borough wide
Area Served: Borough wide

Author: Sally Blomfield (x6255)
Lead Councillor: Lyn Gleeson

Report for Decision

Summary

This Report informs Members of the receipt of the Inspector’s Report of the Examination into the draft Core Planning Strategy (the Strategy).

The Examination started with the submission of the Strategy and evidence base documents to the Planning Inspectorate on 4 March 2009. The Inspector carried out accompanied site visits with officers of the Council and the Greater London Authority in June and hearings into outstanding issues were held between 16 June and 25 June 2009.

The Inspector’s final report into the Examination was received on 4 September 2009. The Strategy has been found to be sound subject to the Inspector’s recommendation to make a number of changes to the document. The key change required is the need to delete all references to the de-designation and development of Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) in the Beddington, Hackbridge and Kimpton areas.

Recommendations

I recommend that the **Planning Advisory Group**:

- (i) Notes the receipt of the Inspector’s Report and that a full report will be presented to PAG at its meeting on October 2009; and
- (ii) Agree the distribution arrangements for the Inspector’s Report in advance of formal adoption procedures.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council approved the submission of the draft Strategy at its meeting on 2 March, and the draft Strategy and all the evidence base documents were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 4 March 2009. The period of examination lasted six months until the receipt of the Inspector’s Report on 4 September 2009, with the formal hearings being held between 16 and 25 June 2009.

2. Outcome of the Examination

- 2.1 The Inspector’s conclusion is that the Strategy is sound and should be adopted subject to a number of changes.

2.2

2.3 Finally, the Inspector also wished to express his thanks to the Council officers for the helpful and professional way in which they conducted themselves during the examination.

3. Next Stages/Adoption Procedures

3.1 In order to meet required adoption procedures it is intended to send a full report on the outcome of the Inspector's considerations alongside a copy of the final version of the Core Strategy and Proposals Map for approved adoption to:

PAG – 6 October 2009

The Executive – 3 November 2009

Full Council – 7 December 2009

3.2 As soon as possible after adoption the Council must make the Strategy, an Adoption Statement and a revised Sustainability Appraisal available for inspection at the libraries, main Council offices and on the web. A set of documents must be sent to the Secretary of State. Anyone who requested to be notified of adoption must also be sent a copy of the Adoption Statement.

3.3 In advance of this it is recommended that the Council publish the Inspector's Report.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The financial implications of the adoption of the Strategy will be covered in the next report which will deal in detail with adoption procedures.

5. Influence of the Council's Core Values

5.1 The preparation of the Strategy has involved significant partnership working; making services open and accessible and seeking innovative approaches to provide better, more cost effective services.

6. Contribution to the Achievement of the Council's Policy Aims

6.1 The Council's goals include achieving environmental sustainability, social inclusion and economic and community well being. The provision of sufficient housing, employment, leisure and community facilities in the Borough during the plan period will help to achieve these goals.

7. One Planet Living

7.1 The Preferred Options for the policies and the site will meet the following One Planet Living Principles: Zero Carbon, Zero Waste, Sustainable Transport, Local and Sustainable Materials, Sustainable Waste, Natural Habitats and Wildlife, Culture and Heritage, Health and Happiness. Indirectly, they may also meet the principles of Local and Sustainable Food and Equity and Fair Trade.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 8.1 The policies contained in the document, particularly in the “Creating Active and Inclusive Communities” section will help the Council to deliver sustainable development and mixed and balanced communities.

This page is intentionally left blank