**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Special Meeting: Wednesday 3rd August, 2016

at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Sweeney (Vice-Chairman), Barlow, Biggins, Brook, Hamilton, R. McClure, Maddox, Pemberton and Roberts.

Also Present:- Phil Huck (Executive Director), Sue Roberts (Director of Resources) and Jon Huck (Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer) and Helen Houston (Development Services).

**39 – Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cassells, Pidduck and Williams.

**40 – Publication Draft Local Plan**

The Executive Director informed the Committee that the Borough’s existing Local Plan had been adopted in 2001 and some of the policies were out of date and needed updating or replacing. The Planning Policy Team was responsible for preparing the new Local Plan which sets the broad framework for acceptable development in the Borough for the next 15 years up to 2031.

The production of the new Local Plan had been set out in the Council Priorities 2013-16, where objective 1.3 was ‘to ensure the timely progression of the Local Plan’. That objective had been linked to the Housing priority but also supported the Regeneration and Public Realm and Local Economy Priorities.

The Council had ‘saved’ the under-mentioned documents to be replaced in due course by a new Local Plan.

1. Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council Local Plan Review 1996-2006 (Adopted August 2001)
2. Housing Chapter Alteration 2006 (Adopted June 2006)

The policies within the Barrow Port Area Action Plan (Adopted July 2010) had also been saved.

In November 2012, consultation had taken place under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 regarding what should be contained in the new Local Plan. The comments that were received and development sites put forward had informed the production of the Issues and Options Draft Local Plan in September 2014.

In October/November 2014, informal consultation had taken place on the Issues and Options Draft Local Plan, and the comments that were received and development sites put forward had informed the production of the Preferred Options Draft Local Plan.

The Preferred Options Draft Local Plan had been consulted upon in July/August 2015.The Draft also contained the Council’s preferred options for a suite of policies and had included the Council’s preferred development sites. Comments received during that consultation informed the Publication Draft.

Officers had worked with members of the Planning Policy Working Group (comprising three Members of Executive and three Members of Planning Committee) throughout the process of preparing the Local Plan. That would be an ongoing dialogue allowing members to engage with the process and strengthen the Plan as it progresses.

The Council was also required to identify the objectively assessed housing need (OAN) in the Borough and to set a housing requirement in its new Local Plan. OAN was a “policy neutral” figure of basic housing need, whereas the housing requirement takes into account other factors such as constraints to delivery, policy restrictions and infrastructure requirements.

National guidance stated that the most recent household projections produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government should be used as a “starting point” when calculating the OAN. Adjustments could then be made to take into account housing market and economic signals and previous unmet need.

The Council had calculated the OAN and housing requirement for the Borough over the Plan period based on the most up-to-date evidence available (CLG 2012 household projections).

CLG 2012 household figures projected a continued decline in the Borough’s population over the period 2012 to 2031. The size of households in the Borough would also continue to fall. That resulted in a projected growth of only 362 households between 2012 and 2031, which equated to an annual average of 19 additional households.

That figure should be adjusted upwards to take into account future employment growth, future housing vacancies and second homes. A number of options for OAN had been identified, however the most realistic was considered to be an OAN of 1990 net additional dwellings over the 19 year plan period which was an average of 105 dwellings per year. That was the minimum number of net additional dwellings which should be built over the Plan period. It was not a ceiling and additional housing would be accepted where it accorded with the Development Plan.

The Council intended to meet the target through the development of: Allocated sites; Sites with extant planning permission; Development on windfall sites; and Bringing vacant properties back into beneficial use.

The Publication Draft which had been considered by the Committeecontained proposed allocations for a number of Housing, Employment and Opportunity sites throughout the borough. These were shown on the Local Plan Proposals Maps which were shown at the meeting and an A4 map of each site was contained within the Draft Plan

The Council were also proposing to allocate 38 sites for housing, 20 of these sites were in Barrow, ten in Dalton, six in Askam and Ireleth, one in Lindal and one in Newton.

The Council also proposing to allocate 10 sites for employment; of these two were in Dalton, seven in Barrow and one at Walney.

The Council had identified through its allocation process and associated studies and assessments four brownfield sites in Barrow which were currently vacant which it would like to see developed within the lifetime of the Plan, and had classified them as regeneration Opportunity Areas.

The Council were proposing to allocate areas of the Borough as Green Infrastructure which were shown at the meeting.

Upon agreement, the Publication Draft Local Plan would be available for consultation for a minimum six week period during August/September 2016. During that time comments would be invited from statutory bodies, organisations, individuals, groups, developers/landowners and other interested parties. A number of exhibitions would also be held throughout the Borough. The options within the Draft had undergone Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Viability Assessment, and these documents along with a range of supporting documents would be made available in the consultation period.

In early 2017, a Submission Draft Local Plan would be finalised and brought back to Committee for agreement to submit the Plan to government for examination.

In line with the regulations a number of assessments and consultation stages were required throughout the process of drafting the new Local Plan, however the timetable suggested the Plan would be examined and adopted in 2017.

An amendment to Table 6 Proposed Housing Allocations in Barrow Borough was considered by the Committee. The amendment referred to land at Tantabank and that the Indicative Yield (No. of dwellings) was 15.

RESOLVED:- (i) To agree the Publication Draft Local Plan as amended; and

(ii) To agree to proceed with the consultation for a minimum period of six weeks.

The meeting closed at 2.52 p.m.