LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

REPORT OF THE CABINET

2 September 2009

To receive the report of the Cabinet at its meeting held on Wednesday 2nd September 2009.

The Members who attended our meeting were: -

Councillor Lutfur Rahman (Chair)  (Leader of the Council)
Councillor Joshua Peck (Vice-Chair)  (Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed  (Lead Member, Resources and Performance)
Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed  (Lead Member, Culture and Leisure)
Councillor Anwara Ali  (Lead Member, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Abdul Asad  (Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Marc Francis  (Lead Member, Housing and Development)
Councillor Rania Khan  (Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships)
Councillor Oliur Rahman  (Lead Member, Employment and Skills)
Councillor Abdal Ullah  (Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener)
Other Members present: -

Councillor Md. Shahid Ali
Councillor Stephanie Eaton  (Leader Liberal Democrat Group and Scrutiny Lead Member: A Healthy Community)
Councillor Peter Golds  (Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Sirajul Islam  (Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

6.1 Local Development Framework Core Strategy: Towards a sound Core Strategy (CAB 036/090)

Councillor O. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.1 “Local Development Framework Core Strategy: Towards a sound Core Strategy” (CAB 036/090). The declaration of interest was on the basis that Councillor Ahmed:

- Owned a property on the Aberfeldy Estate London E14.
- Was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation.

Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report (which is attached at Appendix 1), summarised the salient points contained therein:

- Commenting that:
  - The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 had brought forward changes to the production of planning policy, with the replacement of
Unitary Development Plans with a Local Development Framework (LDF). Government, in response to significant and widely publicised teething problems with the new planning system initiated further evolution of the plan making system in 2008. Plan making guidance was now set out in amendments to the Act and associated Regulations together with Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning.

- The preparation of the LDF had been reported to Members on several occasions over the past four years, and it had been a long and convoluted process. This was the second time the LDF had reached point of consultation prior to submission to the Secretary of State. Following the withdrawal of the first submission in October 2007, the Authority had commenced work on a revised Core Strategy, learning lessons from other local authority’s with regard to Government expectations and subsequently preparation was informed by the newly amended statutory, and policy guidance framework. The report before Cabinet proposed that the updated version of the LDF Core Strategy go forward for consultation.

• Highlighting key policy elements of the LDF Core Strategy:
  - Previous criticism that there had been an insufficiently strong spatial vision for the Borough had been addressed with the spatial vision of “Reinventing the Hamlets”. This also reflected the Borough’s position in the historic East End and its fundamental contribution to London’s economy.
  - Delivery of affordable housing [through planning negotiations on all developments capable of delivering this], with the aspiration being a proportion of 50 percent, and in particular the prioritisation of social for rent family sized accommodation. This would give hope to those trapped on the “housing waiting list” and contrasted sharply with the Mayor of London’s Plan.
  - Plans for the provision of the required social and physical infrastructure needed to support development:
    - Plans for health facilities for the Borough and addressing the health implications of planning.
    - Identification of new school and educational provisions including four new primary schools and three new Ideas Stores.
    - Ensuring the delivery of interconnected transport networks.
  - Emphasis on protection of the historical environment/heritage.
  - Seeking to protect open space and emphasis on examining opportunities to improve and create additional open space.

• Commenting that pre scrutiny discussion of the LDF Core Strategy, at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous evening, had been detailed and positive and he intended that elements of the strategy should be strengthened as a result.
• Concluding that the proposed LDF Core Strategy was a model of good practice which other local authorities were starting to replicate.
Ms Richardson, Interim Planning Manager – Development and Renewal:

- Emphasised aspects of the process undergone to develop the LDF Core Strategy now proposed for a further stage of formal consultation:
  - Compliance with both statutory requirements on the Authority and Government guidance.
  - Proactive consultation and engagement, including two successful public consultations in July 2008 and February 2009.
  - Partnership working on the subsidiary documents across the Local Strategic Partnership.

- Drew the attention of members of the Cabinet to additional key elements of the LDF Core Strategy including:
  - Renewed focus on opportunities for housing and employment.
  - Emphasis on green infrastructure for example the Tower Hamlets Green Grid and the Healthy Towns Programme.
  - Emphasis on high quality design for buildings and places.
  - Extensive and robust evidence base underpinning technical elements.
  - The infrastructure Delivery Plan attached at Appendix 2 to the Core Strategy to ensure timely delivery.
  - Identification of an annual monitoring process for the Core Strategy to measure delivery/ performance against expected outcomes and to trigger a review if required.

- Addressed, at the request of the Chair, the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 1st September 2009, in relation to the report; as set out in the tabled sheets of questions/ comments/ advice presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings:

  Our Chair then Moved the recommendations as set out in the report before us (taking account of the advice of our Deputy Chief Executive).

A discussion followed, during which the proposed Local Development Framework Core Strategy was broadly welcomed. The following points were also made:-

- Inclusion of an aspiration for the delivery of 50 percent affordable housing, and in particular the prioritisation of social for rent family sized accommodation was welcomed.
- The prospect of Poplar Baths being brought back into Community use was also welcomed.
- The spatial vision which drew on the Borough’s historical composition of a number of hamlets was considered a very strong aspect of the strategy, and one which would be welcomed by local people.
- The refocusing of retail and commercial activities in town centres at the heart of the different hamlets was welcomed for its potential to stop the proliferation of shops in ground floor units which had occurred in recent years, to the detriment of town centres.
- The strong emphasis on permeability of the public realm, because of its potential to promote social cohesion, set out within Part 6 ‘Designing a high-quality city’,
Section 2 ‘Creating attractive and safe streets and places’, was endorsed. However Councillor Peck, Deputy Leader of the Council, expressed concern, with reference to the sub-section ‘How we are going to get there SP09’, Paragraph 2 (c) “Discouraging development that create gated communities which restrict pedestrian movement.” that the word “discouraging” did not adequately reflect the policy intentions detailed more generally elsewhere; and accordingly it should be replaced with the word “prohibit”. Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, responded that, whilst recognising/sympathising with the basis for the proposed amendment, he would be grateful if it were not formally agreed at this juncture. This would allow him to properly examine any potential implications for the Authority; and he assured Councillor Peck that he would inform him of the outcome of this process prior to issuing the version of the strategy for consultation.

- Clarification/assurance was sought and given regarding the inclusion a multi-faith burial facility for residents of the Borough as a key element of the Strategy.
- Clarification/assurance was sought and given regarding the bringing together of the communities on the Teviot and Aberfeldy Estates as an element of the Strategy. Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, undertook to provide written details, for all Members, of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation proposals to fund a crossing that would connect the two communities.
- Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development and the Officer Team were thanked for the hard work in producing the proposed Strategy.

The Chair in Moving the recommendations as set out in the report:-

- Formally extended his thanks to Ms Richardson, Interim Strategic Planning Manager - Development and Renewal, her Officer Team, and Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, for their hard work in developing and honing the LDF Core Strategy to that which was now proposed for consultation. He recalled the voluminous and complex document submitted to Cabinet in 2004 and therefore commended the distillation undertaken to produce the current document.
- Summarised that the spatial vision of “the hamlets” contained in the proposed LDF Core Strategy would fit well with the diversity of the Borough.

And it was:-

Resolved

1. That the supporting evidence base for the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy detailed in Appendix 2 to the report (CAB 036/090), be noted;

2. That the LDF Core Strategy attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 036/090) be approved for formal consultation in accordance with Regulation 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2008;
3. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and Lead Member Housing and Development, be authorised to:

(a) Make any appropriate and necessary minor amendments to the LDF Core Strategy and its supporting evidence base prior to consultation.

(b) Make any appropriate and necessary amendments to the LDF Core Strategy and supporting evidence base, following the consultation and prior to submission to full Council on 9th December 2009

We therefore recommend Council to:

1. Note the supporting evidence base for the Local Development Framework Core Strategy submitted for consideration by the Corporate Director Development and Renewal (included in Appendix 2 to the report [CAB 036/090]) to be submitted alongside the Core Strategy, to the Secretary of State.

2. Approve the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, submitted for consideration by the Corporate Director Development and Renewal (included in Appendix 1 to the report), for submission to the Secretary of State.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Chair of the Cabinet

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 100D (AS AMENDED)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brief description of “background paper” number of holder</th>
<th>Tick if copy supplied</th>
<th>If not supplied, name and telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>