

## Extraordinary Council – 31 August 2011

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Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **31 August 2011** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr S P Smith  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs J A Mockford

Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr Mrs C M Mason
Cllr C I Black	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr J P Cottis	Cllr T E Mountain
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr R D Pointer
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs A V Hale	Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr Mrs D Hoy	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr M Hoy	Cllr I H Ward
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins
Cllr M Maddocks	

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, K J Gordon, A J Humphries, Mrs J R Lumley, D Merrick, R A Oatham and A C Priest.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	- Chief Executive
S Scrutton	- Head of Planning and Transportation
S Hollingworth	- Team Leader (Planning Policy)
N Khan	- Principal Solicitor
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

### **201 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr T G Cutmore declared a personal interest in the item on Rochford Core Strategy by virtue of previous membership of the East of England Regional Assembly, the organisation that published the original East of England Plan, but emphasised that he had voted against the Plan.

### **202 ROCHFORD CORE STRATEGY – WAY FORWARD**

Council considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation outlining the Council's options for the Rochford Core Strategy following the receipt of a letter from the Inspector on 11 August 2011.

A Motion that the recommendations detailed on page 3.9 of the officer's report be approved, subject to the insertion of "including the requirement for an early review of the plan" after the word "process" in item 2, was moved by Cllr K H Hudson and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore.

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The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation emphasised that this Council had done all within its power to reduce the build rate from 250 to 190 by extending the plan period to 2031 but was thwarted by circumstances beyond its control. In order for the Council to ensure that it has an acceptable Core Strategy it has to build the same quantum, but within the reduced period preferred by the previous Government. In promoting acceptance of the recommendations detailed within the officer's report, the Portfolio Holder stressed that this is the only option available to the Council as, without an acceptable and approved Core Strategy, the District would be left in such a vulnerable position as to open its borders and leave the gates open to all and sundry to build what they will, where they will.

The Leader of the Council reiterated that, if the Council was to withdraw the Core Strategy there was no doubt that forthcoming planning applications would be determined in accordance with the emerging National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); the Council's ability to manage development within its district and to protect the interests of its residents would be severely hampered.

In favour of the Motion, mention was made of the fact that there is little land suitable for development within the Rochford District, as a result of areas of Green Belt, flood risk areas, Conservation Areas, etc, and that it was preferable for this Council to plan future housing, rather than Whitehall. It was also emphasised that the Core Strategy afforded protection against unconstrained and predatory development at a time when the Government was facing the pressure of long housing waiting lists nationally. Reference was also made to the necessity of the Council having an up to date plan setting out proposals for future development, ensuring a 5-year supply of housing with an additional 20% in hand, as suggested by the draft NPPF, thus controlling future development.

Against the Motion, mention was made of dissatisfaction with some of the locations identified within the Core Strategy for new housing and concern was raised around the possibility of neighbouring Authorities identifying land within the Rochford District for new housing. However, under the emerging new legislation and guidance, there would be a duty for Local Authorities to work closely together to produce evidence for planning development documents.

On a requisition, pursuant to Council procedure rule 17.4, a recorded vote was taken on the motion as follows:-

For (25)                      Cllr Mrs P Aves; Cllr C I Black; Cllr M R Carter; Cllr J P Cottis; Cllr T G Cutmore; Cllr J E Grey; Cllr Mrs A V Hale; Cllr K H Hudson; Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill; Cllr C J Lumley; Cllr M Maddocks; Cllr Mrs C M Mason; Cllr J R F Mason; Cllr Mrs J E McPherson; Cllr Mrs J A Mockford; Cllr T E Mountain; Cllr R D Pointer; Cllr C G Seagers; Cllr S P Smith; Cllr M J Steptoe; Cllr J Thomass; Cllr I H Ward; Cllr Mrs M J Webster; Cllr P F A Webster; Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

Against (0)

Abstentions (2)      Cllr Mrs D Hoy  
                                 Cllr M Hoy

## Resolved

- (1) To revert to the submission version of the Rochford Core Strategy dated September 2009 (submitted for examination in January 2010).
- (2) To correct any anachronisms, dates and references to account for the delay in the examination process, including the requirement for an early review of the plan.
- (3) To update the vision by collating the visions for the various elements of the Core Strategy into one chapter, as requested by the examination Inspector following hearings in May 2010.
- (4) To include explanatory text regarding the Transportation Strategy Supplementary Planning Document, as requested by the Core Strategy Inspector following hearings in May 2010.
- (5) To advertise the changes to the Core Strategy to coincide with a consultation being organised by the Inspector on the draft NPPF.
- (6) To submit the revised Core Strategy and consultation responses to the Inspector with a request that the final report be issued as soon as is practicable. (HPT)

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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