

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 12 May 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **12 May 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr P K Savill (Chairman)
Cllr C A Hungate (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr C I Black
Cllr P A Capon
Cllr T E Goodwin

Cllr K H Hudson
Cllr P F A Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs R Brown.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr M G B Starke

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton	- Head of Planning Services
C Nicholson	- Solicitor
J Bradley	- Trainee Solicitor
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

238 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

239 PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 1: CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES – CONSULTATION DRAFT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services, referred from the Environmental Services Committee on 6 April 2004, seeking Members' comments on the principles of the Government's high level policy objectives for planning outlined in draft Planning Policy Statement 1.

During debate, Members stressed the importance of infrastructure with respect to sustainable development.

In response to a Member concern that, for new developments, there should be an increase in the minimum level of car parking provision, officers confirmed that a Planning Policy Statement on housing would include recommendations relating to car parking provision for new developments.

Responding to a question relating to suitable land for development, officers advised that the Local Planning Authority, as part of any Local Development Document relating to housing and employment use, would need to identify the land within its District that would be most suitable for housing and employment use; it would furthermore be advisable for the Local Planning Authority to identify such land rather than this decision being taken by a planning inspector. Sites adjacent to Green Belt boundaries had been analysed by the Local Planning Authority in a Green Belt Boundary Study; it was feasible that this study could assist the identification of sites to meet any longer term housing allocation.

In response to a further question relating to the Government's objective of providing communities with an opportunity to influence how their areas develop, officers confirmed that the Government had stated that it would be unrealistic to expect all of the community to be satisfied by all planning decisions.

Responding to an enquiry relating to the development of the Park School site, officers advised that, within the new Local Development Framework, any similar developments would be the subject of a public consultation.

On a Motion moved by Cllr K H Hudson and seconded by Cllr P F A Webster it was:-

Resolved

That the contents of the consultation paper be noted. (HPS)

240 FUTURE OF THE ROCHFORD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services providing an update on the arrangements for completing work on the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan and the preparation of the new Local Development Framework, following discussions with the Government Office for the East of England (GO East).

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to GO East's advice that the Authority should continue with adoption of the Second Deposit Local Plan, officers confirmed that this was because work was advanced on the Plan and that Regional Planning Guidance would possibly not be published by the Government until autumn 2005.

Mindful of the advice given by GO East, Members considered nevertheless that, by virtue of the substantial financial resources required for the running of the Local Inquiry for the Second Deposit Local Plan, work should not continue with respect to adoption of the Plan. It should, however, provide a basis for work on the new Local Development Framework.

On a Motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr P A Capon, it

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was:-

Recommended to Council

- (1) That work on the preparation of the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan ends following the completion of the Second Deposit stage.
- (2) That work on the preparation of the Rochford Local Development Framework commences in accordance with the agreed LDS timetable.
- (3) That a detailed statement on the transition arrangements be prepared and reported to the next meeting of this Committee. (HPS)

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Date