

# Local Plan Working Party

## Minutes

Monday, 02 November 2015 at 16:00

### PRESENT:

Councillor Reynolds (in the Chair); Councillors Bird, Collins, Grant, T Wainwright and Williamson.

Mr D Glason (Group Manager - Growth), Mr K Balls (Senior Strategic Planning Officer), Mrs S Wintle (Member Services Officer) and Mrs C Webb (Senior Member Services Officer).

### 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no Declarations of Interest declared at the meeting.

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that there were no apologies for absence.

### 3 LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY ADOPTION

The Working Party considered the comprehensive report from the Group Manager - Growth covering the latest position i.e. that the final report was awaited from the national Planning Inspectorate.

The Group Manager - Growth reported that the Local Plan Core Strategy would need to be adopted this calendar year to maintain the 15 year plan period and it was agreed that a Special Council would be held on 16 December 2015 for this purpose.

The Chairman was concerned that, in the interim period, the Development Control Committee would be in limbo regarding planning guidance they could take into consideration when determining a planning application. The Group Manager - Growth reported that guidance laid down in the new Local Plan and the Interim Housing Policy document had "material weight".

A Member asked whether the Inspector had accepted the Council's proposal to increase the housing target to 420 dwellings per annum from 380. The Group Manager - Growth reported that the Inspector was likely to agree this modification as it is the locally "objectively assessed need".

A Member asked for clarification on the percentage of Affordable Housing required in new developments across the Borough. The Group Manager - Growth reported that this varied between 10% and 20% depending on where it was in the Borough and that he would circulate a report detailing the requirements to all members of the Working Party for information.

The Chairman reported that he thought that the Government were basing its financial recovery on the country's house building programme.

RESOLVED;

That the Local Plan Working Party note the current position of the Local Plan Core Strategy and endorse its progression to Full Council for adoption.

#### **4 LOCAL PLAN TIMETABLE**

The Senior Strategic Planning Officer took the Working Party through the Local Plan Timetable.

The Senior Strategic Planning Officer reported that a Site Allocation and Development Management Policies consultation would be undertaken prior to Easter 2016 whereby Parish Council's, members of the public and local Members would be consulted.

RESOLVED:

That the Local Plan Working Party note the Local Plan Timetable.

#### **5 SHLAA AND LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY STUDY**

The Senior Strategic Planning Officer gave a verbal report regarding the SHLAA and Landscape Sensitivity Study.

The Senior Strategic Planning Officer reported that the present SHLAA was based on 2009 methodology and therefore needed updating in light of national policy changes such as the requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Policy Guidance. It had been agreed to share resources and work in partnership via a joint study with Waveney District Council to agree the new methodology for the SHLAA and Landscape Sensitivity Study.

A Member reported that it was imperative that development sites be discounted which would result in villages becoming joined eg. Ormesby St.Margaret and Caister.

A Member reported that the Government had indicated that they would grant automatic planning permission for identified greenfield/brownfield developments.

Another Member questioned whether the Council would be vulnerable in planning matters between now and the introduction of the new SHLAA in April 2016.

The Chairman was concerned that although sites were identified for development that the local infrastructure might not be able to cope, for example, the impact that more homes in Bradwell might have on the Gapton Hall roundabout. The Group Manager - Growth reported that transport modelling was a consideration which was taken into account in the production of the Local Plan.

The Chairman asked that the Group Manager - Growth give consideration to providing training to all Members on these important matters.

The Group Manager - Growth agreed to provide training to the Working Party as to the current local evidence base & thinking regarding each settlement within the Borough.

The Chairman asked the Group Manager - Growth whether he had the staff resources to carry out the necessary workstreams. The Group Manager - Growth reported that advertisements to fill four vacancies had gone to press last week and he was hopeful to fill some vacancies by the New Year.

RESOLVED;

That the Local Plan Working Party noted the reports.

## **6 STRATEGIC PLANNING PROJECT UPDATES**

The Group Manager - Growth gave an update on the following:-

- Town Centre Initiative/Masterplan
- A12/A143 Link Road/South Bradwell and Enterprise Zone progress
- A47 Alliance
- GY Tidal Defence Business Partnership and new Anglia LEP bid; and
- New GY Highways Steering Group

RESOLVED:

That the Local Plan Working Party noted the reports.

## **7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman reported that there was no other business as being of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

The meeting ended at: 17:00