

Notes of a meeting of the Local Plan Working Group held in the Council Chamber, The Grange, Ely, on Tuesday, 4th July 2017 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Coralie Green (Chairman)
Cllr Steve Cheetham
Cllr Paul Cox
Cllr Lorna Dupré
Cllr Julia Huffer

OFFICERS

Julie Barrow – Senior Planning Officer
Edward Dade – Strategic Planning Officer
Richard Kay – Strategic Planning Manager
Janis Murfet – Democratic Services Officer

13. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr David Brown

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman wished to have placed on record her thanks to Cllrs Derrick Beckett and Joshua Schumann, previous Members of the Local Plan Working Group.

16. NOTES

Further to Minute No.8 (Local Plan: Witchford Discussion Paper), page 4, Cllr Dupré asked that the third bullet point be reworded as follows, in order to better reflect the context of her comment:

'The County Council had considered A142/A10 Witchford – Ely capacity improvements as a project for submission to the Government's National Productivity Investment Fund, but the project was ranked fifth out of seven projects in total and would not be submitted.'

Further to Minute No.10 (Local Plan: Air Quality, Pollution and More – Discussion Paper), page 7, Councillor Dupré asked that the fourth bullet point be reworded to read:

‘HCVs could be conditioned by S106 agreements to adhere to routing agreements, though these might be difficult to enforce; meanwhile the County Council’s ‘covenant’ was voluntary and required individual parishes to sign with individual hauliers. A more robust alternative would be a set of traffic regulation Orders limiting HCVs.’

It was resolved:

That, subject to the above, the Notes of the previous meeting held on 31st May 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. LOCAL PLAN: DRAFT FULL COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Following a Member request at the last meeting to set out the ‘next steps’ in respect of the Local Plan, the Strategic Planning Manager presented the information in the form of the draft Full Council Report, which was scheduled to be presented to Full Council in October 2017.

The draft report set out the proposed recommendations, the background to the preparation of the emerging Local Plan, the next steps in the process and the financial implications.

During the course of discussion it was agreed that the ‘tests of soundness’, as set down by legislation, should be included in the report to Council.

The Strategic Planning Manager reiterated that the lengthy draft was still subject to amendment and he asked that Members contact him with anything they wished added to the report.

It was agreed:

That the next steps in the Local Plan preparation process, and the comments made thereon, be noted.

18. LOCAL PLAN: SUGGESTED FINAL SITES

The Strategic Planning Manager presented a report from which Members were asked to consider Officer recommendations, regarding the preferred sites to be allocated in the Local Plan.

In reviewing the Officer proposed and possible allocations, a wide ranging discussion of the issues and options took place, relating to the following points:

- Particular issues or changes from previous allocations in the Further Draft Local Plan;

- Suggestions, where appropriate, to amend existing or add new wording to the policy document, in relation to a specific site;
- Various discussions relating to infrastructure; and
- Financial implications.

It was agreed:

That Officers be thanked for the comprehensive set of emerging proposed allocations presented, and that finalisation of the proposals should continue by Officers, taking account of the issues raised at the meeting.

19. FORWARD PLAN OF ITEMS FOR MEMBER WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

The Working Group received a report from which Members were asked to agree the forward plan of items for discussion at future Working Group meetings.

It had originally been planned to hold a meeting on 1st August 2017 to consider the emerging final draft of the Local Plan. However, as the Full Council meeting would not be taking place until 5th October, the Strategic Planning Manager said it would be beneficial if the meeting of the Working Group could be pushed back to the week commencing 4th September, to allow Officers further time to work on the Local Plan itself.

Members confirmed that Thursday, 7th September would be a convenient date, and the Democratic Services Officer said she would make the necessary arrangements.

It was resolved:

That the next meeting of the Local Plan Working Group be rescheduled for Thursday, 7th September 2017 at 6.00pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.