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EAST  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**SPECIAL COUNCIL – 4 SEPTEMBER 2014**  
**DECISION LIST**

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
1.	-	Public Question Time	To answer questions from members of the public.	<p>The following question was asked by Mr Keith Hutchinson of Hutchinson's Planning and Development Consultants:</p> <p><u>Reference Agenda Item 6 – Proposed Additional Housing Allocations Consideration</u></p> <p>'We have been instructed by Mr S Moffat in connection with land that he owns on the north side of Mildenhall Road, Fordham.</p> <p>We understand that this land was originally allocated for housing in your Local Plan as submitted to the Secretary of State, but was subsequently withdrawn as part of the modification process (site FRD3). Our client did appear at the Examination Hearing into the Local Plan and we are, of course, aware that only the interim conclusions of the Inspector have been published.</p> <p>Bearing in mind that this Fordham allocation had very clear public support in</p>	-

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				<p>the Village Vision and that your Council allocated the site in the submitted version of the Local Plan and only subsequently withdrew it in later modifications, it would appear to us to be an obvious candidate as an allocation now to assist in achieving the perceived shortfall in housing supply. We are aware that the Inspector requested robust justification of this Fordham allocation, but we consider that an identified shortfall in supply, tangible public support and the fact that your Council continues to allocate sites in far less sustainable locations (such as Wentworth) provide more than sufficient justification for the resurrection of the allocation of site FRD3.</p> <p>Our question, therefore, is why this site has not been recommended for re-allocation, when your Council clearly felt it was suitable for allocation in the submitted version of your Local Plan and we request that full Council reinstates this allocation.'</p> <p>The Chief Executive confirmed that this issue related to Agenda Item 6 on the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan - Planning Inspector's Interim Conclusions Report and Further Proposed Modifications, and that the Principal Forward Planning Officer</p>	

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				would respond to the points in the question as part of her introductory presentation on this item.	
2.	-	Apologies for Absence	-	Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Sue Austen, Derrick Beckett, Jeremy Friend-Smith, Sheila Friend-Smith, Lindsey Harris, Tom Kerby, Philip Read, Charles Roberts and Andy Wright.	-
3.	-	Declarations of Interest	To receive declarations of interests from Members in respect of any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.	Councillor James Palmer declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item 6. He stated that he had declared an interest at previous meetings where the matter had been discussed and at the Conservative Group meeting, and had left the room during the discussion and voting thereon.	-
4.	-	Chairman's Announcements	Announcement of items of interest.	<p>The Chairman made the following announcement:</p> <p>'I am pleased to confirm the appointment of our two new Assistant Directors to the Council.</p> <p>Firstly, Jo Brooks, who should be familiar to you all, has been appointed as Assistant Director (Regulatory Services) and she took up her new post on Monday this week.</p> <p>Richard Quayle, currently Head of Organisational Development and Transformation at Allerdale Borough</p>	-

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				<p>Council, will join us on 1<sup>st</sup> December as our new Assistant Director (Support Services).</p> <p>I hope you will join me in wishing both of them well in their new jobs at East Cambridgeshire.'</p> <p>Councillors expressed their best wishes with a round of applause.</p>	
5.	-	Notice of Motions Under Procedure Rule 10	<p><u>Renewable Energy Policy Objectives</u></p> <p>The following Motion, as amended, was proposed by Cllr Bill Hunt and seconded by Cllr James Palmer:</p> <p>Whilst this Council recognises the benefits of additional renewable energy generation within the District, the Council expresses concern that the current national planning guidance, with its presumption to approve, is at odds with localism and does not provide adequate protection to local communities.</p> <p>Therefore, this Council requests the Secretary of State to conduct an urgent review of current National Planning Policy Framework in relation to renewable energy.</p> <p>To provide the maximum assurance</p>	<p>On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.</p>	<p>Chief Executive/ Principal Forward Planning Officer</p>

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			<p>to local communities, this Council endorses the following policy objectives.</p> <p>That this Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is committed to ensuring that all affected local communities and residents are fully involved in the determination of planning applications for large scale renewable energy schemes including public events and exhibitions.</li> <li>- will fully consider the views of all concerned residents who may or may not directly be affected by a proposed renewable energy scheme in the determination of planning applications;</li> <li>- is committed to ensure that large scale renewable energy schemes should be developed on lower quality agricultural land or land with limited environmental value. Applicants proposing to develop significant amounts of high quality agricultural land</li> </ul>		

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			<p>will be required to comprehensively justify this as part of their planning application;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is supportive of large scale renewable energy proposals where it can be clearly demonstrated that any adverse impacts are significantly outweighed by the benefits of the scheme to the local community or communities;</li> <li>- guarantees that all large scale renewable energy proposals are considered by the Planning Committee of elected members;</li> <li>- is generally supportive of the development of small scale or micro renewable energy schemes which are sited on or close to existing or proposed buildings and which have proven limited or no adverse impacts;</li> <li>- is supportive of large scale renewable energy proposals</li> </ul>		

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			<p>where it can be demonstrated that there is clear support from both residents and elected representatives (members of parliament, MEP's, county, district and parish councillors) and in every case, the community benefits are proven to outweigh the harm and threats of the application;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- recognises the potential for adverse impacts on the local highway network following the development of large scale renewable energy schemes and will restrict the movements of vehicles through the use of planning conditions and effective enforcement;</li> <li>- requires the applicant to fully demonstrate to the community and the Council that they have fully complied with all of these requirements and any other material planning considerations.</li> </ul> <p>This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of</p>		

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			State to this effect in consultation with the Leader of Council and that the Principal Forward Planning Officer reflects the above policy objectives in the draft Supplementary Guidance to be presented to the October Full Council.		
6.	P71	East Cambridgeshire Local Plan - Planning Inspector's Interim Conclusions Report and Further Proposed Modifications	To consider the Inspector's interim conclusions on the soundness of the Local Plan, and further post-hearing proposed modifications to the draft Local Plan.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. That the Inspector's Interim Conclusions Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be noted.</li> <li>ii. That approval be given to the 'Schedule of Further Proposed Modifications' and revised Sustainability Appraisal, for public consultation purposes between 10<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 (Appendices 2 and 3) – and that any subsequent minor changes be approved by the Principal Forward Planning Officer in consultation with the Chair of Corporate Governance and Finance Committee.</li> <li>iii. That Council note and endorse the following background evidence studies produced in support of the Proposed Modifications:</li> </ul>	Principal Forward Planning Officer

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of Site Deliverability (Appendix 4)</li> <li>• Flood Risk Note (update) (Appendix 5)</li> <li>• Habitats Assessment Regulation Screening Report (update) (Appendix 6)</li> <li>• Housing Supply Paper (update) (Appendix 7).</li> </ul>	
7.	-	Principal Forward Planning Officer		The Chairman of Planning Committee, Councillor Joshua Schumann, announced that the Principal Forward Planning Officer, Katie Child, was leaving the Council to join the Planning Inspectorate. He highlighted that East Cambridgeshire was one of the first authorities with a CIL Charging Policy, Core Strategy and emerging Local Plan. Councillor Schumann and other Members of the Council expressed their best wishes to Katie Child for the future and their appreciation for her excellent work during her time at East Cambridgeshire with a round of applause.	Principal Forward Planning Officer