



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PANEL

9.30am to 12.10pm

27 February 2013

Present: Councillors Bremner (chair), Carlo (vice chair), Driver (to middle of item 4 below), Grahame, Grenville, Lubbock, Sands (M)) and Stammers

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 2. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2013.

### 3. SITE ALLOCATIONS SUBMISSION PLAN

The planning policy team leader (projects) presented the report and together with the head of planning services and the planning policy team leader answered members' questions. Members were advised that the site allocations submission plan would be considered by the cabinet at its meeting on 20 March 2013.

Discussion ensued in which the panel considered the process leading to the adoption of the plan including the arrangements for the public inquiry and the role of the planning inspector. The planning inspector had the power to modify the plans through the examination process. The council had the power to determine whether to adopt the plan or not, but members were advised that there would be serious repercussions for development control if it was not. One member suggested that the paragraph outlining the likely sites that the planning inspector might want to examine in public should be deleted from the report, although other members appreciated that it had been included for members' information. A member suggested that a briefing session for all councillors on the examination of the plans and the public inquiry would be beneficial.

During discussion the head of planning services referred to the action plan and explained that the policy in relation to mooring was flexible and could be either residential, public or private moorings. Members were also advised that all development should be sustainable under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The sustainable appraisal report had not yet been finalised and a member

requested that the panel was briefed on sustainable environmental assessments (SEAs), which underpin sustainable appraisal reports, so that in future the panel could consider it during its deliberations. Members were advised that training was provided for planning applications committee members and that in future panel members would also be invited to attend these sessions.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) note the report and relevant supporting information including:
  - (a) a summary schedule of representations made to the pre-submission version of the plan where no change is proposed and the reasons for not proposing any change (Annexes 1a and 1b);
  - (b) a summary schedule of representations made to the pre-submission version of the plan where minor changes are proposed, and the justification for those changes (Annex 2);
  - (c) the proposed submission version of the plan comprising plan text and appendices incorporating the minor changes set out in (b) (Annex 3);
  - (d) the updated Policies Map (available at Annex 4 at reduced scale) reflecting the content of the emerging Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPDs (full sized versions of the Map will be available at the meeting).
- (2) ask that cabinet recommends to council that it:
  - (a) endorses the proposed Regulation 22 submission version of the Site Allocation plan DPD (subject to the minor changes for clarification set out in Annex 2) as legally compliant and sound;
  - (b) authorises the Site Allocations DPD (as amended) and the revised Policies Map , alongside its evidence base, for formal submission under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Plans) Regulations 2012;
  - (c) delegates authority to the deputy chief executive (operations) in consultation with the cabinet member for environment and development, to approve the detail of technical documents and supporting evidence required to be submitted alongside the Site Allocations DPD for consideration at examination and to give evidence in support of the plan at examination;
  - (d) agrees to give authority to the inspector appointed to hold the public examination to make modifications to the plan under Section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act as amended.

(3) to ask:

- (a) the head of planning services to arrange a members' briefing on the inspectorate's examination in relation to development management plan documents;
- (b) the committee officer to ensure that members of the panel are invited to attend training for members of the planning applications committee.

#### **4. COMPLIANCE OF EXISTING ADOPTED POLICIES WITH THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK**

(Councillor Driver left the meeting during this item.)

The head of planning services presented the report and explained that the emerging development plan documents had been drafted to be consistent with the national planning policy framework (NPPF). He pointed out that there was an inconsistency between the covering report and the appendix and explained that the existing policy SHO2 on major convenience goods stores, limited to small size, was considered to be inconsistent with the NPPF and therefore should not be applied after 27 March 2013. The wording for the policy was circulated at the meeting.

During discussion a member queried the compliance of policy SR3 in relation to the site at Lakenham Cricket Ground and was advised that the policy had been considered to be consistent with the NPPF. Another member said that she did not consider that JCS6, in relation to access and transport, was sustainable because it included the Northern Distributor Road (NDR) and that this would increase carbon dioxide emissions. In response the head of planning services pointed out that the NDR was one of a number of measures, which included investment in the rapid bus transport system and improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. Section 4 of the NPPF did not suggest that road building was inappropriate. Members also expressed concern about the statement in the NPPF that would permit development in "exceptional circumstances"

**RESOLVED** to note the extent of compliance with the NPPF and particularly those policies to which reduced weight will need to be applied following 27 March 2013.

#### **5. ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT (AMR) 2011 – 2012**

The planning policy team leader presented the report and together with the head of planning services and the environmental strategy manager answered members' questions.

During discussion members suggested that the report should refer to baseline figures to help monitor progress against performance targets. Members also considered that, as there was a need to stimulate the housing market, affordable housing provision should be reviewed.

Discussion ensued and it was noted that there were higher emissions in the rural areas because of more car journeys. The increase in particulates in the atmosphere could be attributed to the increased use of diesel, although it was fuel efficient over longer distances. Members considered that there should be a link to other corporate policies and that the licensing committee had approved a phased schedule for the reduction of emissions from hackney carriages. It was also noted that there was a site designated in the city for a biomass generator. The site designated in the city was close to railways to enable sustainable transfer of fuels to the generator. Planning permission was no longer needed for solar photovoltaic panels, unless on a listed building or in a conservation area, and therefore figures for these were currently not reported, though officers committed to attempting to identify other sources of information on this indicator.

**RESOLVED** to note the contents of the annual monitoring report.

## **6. CLIMATE LOCAL**

The environmental strategy manager presented the report and said that it would be recommended at the council meeting on 20 March 2013.

During discussion members welcomed the report. The environmental strategy manager confirmed that the council worked with other authorities and shared best practice through its membership of the climate change task force. In response to a question, the environmental strategy manager referred to the action plan and said that the council needed to maximise the use of its resources and concentrate where it could best influence carbon reduction.

**RESOLVED** to note the report and recommend it to the cabinet.

## **7. HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT (HECA) REPORT 2013-2015**

The environmental strategy manager presented the report and referred to the draft HECA report. Members were invited to comment on the action plan.

During discussion the environmental strategy manager answered members' questions on the proposed action plan. He explained that further information was required on the condition of rented accommodation in the private sector. The council had powers to take enforcement action if accommodation was not up to standard. An improved database would help the council attract partners to carry out the Green Deal. Entire areas of the city had solid walls and end terraces could benefit from external cladding but there were aesthetic concerns about this. Members then discussed how people in fuel poverty could be targeted and noted that there was now a switch and save deal for pre-payment meters available.

Members of the panel commented on the tables and suggested that a percentage would be more relevant than "per ten thousands".

In response to a question, the environmental strategy manager said that the council would be required to produce a HECA report every two years.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) ask members to contact the environmental strategy manager with any comments on the report;
- (2) note that the report will be considered at the cabinet meeting on 20 March 2013;
- (3) that councils will be required to produce a HECA report every two years.

CHAIR