



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PANEL

9.30am to 10.35am

24 October 2012

Present: Councillors Bremner (chair), Carlo (vice chair), Driver (substitute for Councillor Brociek-Coulton), Grahame, Grenville, Lubbock, Sands (M)) and Stammers

Apologies: Councillor Brociek-Coulton

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meetings held on 26 September 2012.

2. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

The planning policy team leader (projects) presented the report. She advised members that the cabinet had approved the governance and decision making aspects of assets of community value at its meeting on 17 October 2012.

During discussion the planning policy team leader (projects) and the head of planning services, referred to the report and answered questions. Discussion ensued on the designation of land and buildings as assets of community value, and it was clarified that the community right to bid for designated assets would be triggered when the site becomes available on the open market. Members were advised that the act of designation of land or a building as an asset of community value should not in itself be treated as a material planning consideration. Consideration of community value of land would still be part of the normal planning process and in accordance with planning policies (adopted local plan policy AEC3 and emerging policy DM22 once adopted.)

Councillor Carlo did not concur with this approach and said that she considered that that the “designation” of an asset of community value should be considered as a material planning consideration to act as a further safeguard of community assets during the planning process.

The chair then moved the proposals contained in the conclusions as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report;
- (2) with 5 members voting in favour of support (Councillors Bremner, Sands, Grenville, Lubbock and Driver), 1 member voting against (Councillor Carlo) and 2 member abstaining (Councillors Stammers and Grahame) to support the recommendation that the designation of land/buildings as assets of community value is not treated as a material planning consideration as it may result in an inconsistent approach being taken to the consideration of planning applications and potentially result in poor quality decision making on part of the local planning authority.

3. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The chair introduced the report and pointed out that cabinet would be asked to approve the statement of community involvement (SCI) for public consultation and therefore there would be further opportunity for members to comment on the revised scheme. The senior planner (policy) presented the report and, together with the head of planning services, answered members' questions.

During discussion Councillor Carlo expressed concern about the proposal to reduce the length of time for public consultation and challenged the statement that publication of papers for cabinet and this panel extended the period that documents were in the public domain, particularly if papers were late, therefore giving very little notice. The head of planning services referred to the report and said that the new executive arrangements meant that reports to cabinet were advertised 28 days before each meeting. Community groups lost commitment over long periods and were less likely to engage in the planning process when it took several years to complete. In practice a shorter period of consultation would not affect the number of responses received. In response to a question, the head of planning services said that it had been some time since the SCI had been reviewed and that there were changes under legislation and guidance to review it further.

Discussion ensued on the various methods of engaging the public through direct emails and the website; providing access to consultation documents at City Hall and in the Millennium Library; press releases and public meetings, exhibitions and focus groups. The head of planning services said that developers were encouraged to hold pre-application consultations where appropriate to the size and type of development.

RESOLVED to recommend to cabinet that it approves the proposed revised statement of community involvement for public consultation.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED to:

- (1) postpone the meeting scheduled for 28 November 2012 to mid December in order to consider an update on the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) in advance of the cabinet meeting on 16 January 2013;

- (2) consider the update on legislative changes arising from the Department for Community and Local Government's announcement on 6 September and a further opportunity to comment on the Growth and Infrastructure Bill;
- (3) ask the committee officer to consult with the chair regarding the date of the next meeting and to notify members of the panel with the revised date.

CHAIR