



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PANEL

9.30am to 12noon

27 July 2011

Present: Councillors Bremner (chair, following election), Carlo (vice chair, following election), Grenville, Little, Lubbock and Sands (M)

Apologies: Councillors Brociek-Coulton and Stammers

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2011, subject to the following amendments:-

- (1) Item 6 – Site allocations DPD additional consultation for major amendments/new sites, resolution, (1), correcting typographical error by replacing ‘s’ with ‘d’ at the end of ‘requires’ so that the resolution reads:

“(1) in relation to site reference H006 – King Street store and sports hall, to request that the proposed allocation is amended to encourage sports development to be required as part of the redevelopment of the site;”

- (2) Item 8 – Preparation of masterplan for Earlham Hall, third paragraph, second sentence, insert ‘few’ between ‘relatively’ and ‘responses’ so that the sentence reads:

“Members were advised that there had been relatively few responses to the consultation on the University of East Anglia’s masterplan.”

2. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

The city growth and development manager gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposals for the introduction of the community infrastructure levy (CIL) and answered members’ questions. The cabinet would be considering a report seeking approval for the draft CIL charging schedule for consultation at its meeting on 21 September 2011.

RESOLVED to note.

**3. SITE ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (DPD) –
UPDATE ON SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FOR MAJOR AMENDMENTS/
NEW SITES**

The head of planning services presented the report and said that the consultation had been extended to 30 September because of the summer holiday period. Public meetings could be arranged for any of the site allocations during the consultation period. Lakenham ward councillors had requested one for site at the former Lakenham Sports and Leisure Centre, Cricket Ground Road (reference M007), which would be held on 11 August. A meeting for local ward councillors was being arranged to consider the proposals for the King Street store and sports hall. Councillor Carlo also requested that there should be a public meeting on the proposals for this site. It was noted that Wensum Lodge was outside the site allocation for this site.

Members were advised that the addendum to the sustainability appraisal report, which had been circulated to members of the cabinet and the panel, would be published with the consultation documents. During discussion Councillor Lubbock referred to the addendum and pointed out a factual error in the second sentence of paragraph 4.11, and said that the statement “The site is not located within 600m of a primary school, secondary school or healthcare facility” was inaccurate as both sites were adjacent to the school.

The head of planning services said that the sustainability appraisal was a requirement and a tool for decision making but that the most cost effective way to conduct this was to use consultants who carry out a desk top exercise, which might throw up some anomalies. The planning policy team leader said that city council officers had conducted the sustainability appraisal for the Northern City Centre Area Action Plan themselves.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the publication of the addendum to the sustainability appraisal:
- (2) ask members to notify the head of planning service if they have any requests for officers to attend meetings during the public consultation period on any of the proposed site allocations.

**4. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES (DPD) – OPTIONS FOR A
GREENER DESIGN POLICY**

(Councillor Lubbock left the meeting during this item.)

The planning policy team leader presented the report and referred to maps showing areas of Norwich requiring surface water management plans (SWMP), that had been produced by the county council and which were available at the meeting.

Members were advised that the SWMPs were based on modelling and local evidence collated through consultation, and could be used to obtain external funding to introduce measures to address the problem. In areas prone to flood risk the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) such as permeable paving would be encouraged. Retro fitting of existing properties and the design of new buildings included measures such as raised sockets and floodgates. Councillor Sands referred to the problems of drainage in Bowthorpe ward and discussion ensued on the final stage of the Three Score which would be an exemplar of sustainable drainage measures such as the use of swales and water recycling.

Members considered that option 3 could not be justified at the present time. Members also questioned the validity of comparing Norwich with larger cities such as Tokyo and even Sheffield.

The majority of members considered that option 1 was the most pragmatic approach and could incorporate elements of option 2 relating to the evidence passed critical drainage areas identified within the SWMPs. Councillor Little suggested that information should be collected to provide evidence of the biodiversity that would support green corridors and suggested that the council engaged the assistance of voluntary groups. The head of planning services said that the council already benefited from the expertise provided by such organisations and would continue to work in partnership with them.

Councillor Carlo produced revised wording in respect of option 1 that strengthened the biodiversity element in the policy. The wording is reproduced below:-

“Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Design

All new development will be expected to maximise opportunities for both the protection of existing and the appropriate provision of new green infrastructure and biodiversity features as an integral part of the overall design to complement and enhance the development and to contribute to the ‘greening’ of the city overall.

- a) Where practicable, provision should be made within developments for new and enhanced green infrastructure and biodiversity features which help to:
- b) safeguard and enhance wildlife habitats, habitat links and natural features of geodiversity and biodiversity importance.
- c) Enhance the appearance and character of the built and natural environment of the site and its surroundings. Careful consideration must be given to the choice of hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatments.
- d) Create a biodiversity-rich environment through the design of built structures and landscaping, the latter to include the use of native plant species.

- e) Incorporate an 'extensive' green roofs element on all significant non-residential buildings and residential developments wherever possible.
- f) Achieve a design which benefits sustainable water management in the critical drainage areas where there is a significantly higher risk of flooding from surface drainage runoff.
- g) Link new areas of wildlife habitat into the existing network of habitats."

Councillor Carlo said that Councillor Stammers intended to submit some comments about energy efficiency and climate change to the officers for consideration. Councillor Sands said that he would prefer the inclusion of a whole range of sustainable technologies and green infrastructure within the DPD.

Discussion ensued in which it was considered that in order for officers to respond to the issues raised and for members of the panel to comment there needed to be further discussion at the next meeting.

RESOLVED to request the head of planning services to provide a further report back in the light of the discussion above to a future meeting of the panel (19 October 2011).

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Members discussed the work programme and put forward items for inclusion. The management of the agenda was also discussed with items for information being put at the end of the agenda and only raised for discussion at the specific request of a member. A request from Councillor Stephenson, the Green group leader, for the progress of the installation of the photovoltaic cells on the roof of City Hall to be a standing item on the agenda was noted.

RESOLVED to agree the work programme as set out in appendix 1 of the report subject to the following amendments:

- (1) progress report on photovoltaic cells on City Hall to be a standing item on agendas for information only;
- (2) briefing on National Waste Review at the September meeting to be an information only report;
- (3) the creation of wildlife areas by decreasing the management regime to be considered at the meeting in November;
- (4) arrange a site visit to recycling centres for members and also a report on food waste and recycling arrangements at the meeting in November;
- (5) arrange the agenda so that information only reports will be discussed only at the request of members.

6. FUTURE DATES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED to hold meetings of the panel on Wednesdays at 9.30am on the following dates:

28 September 2011
19 October 2011
30 November 2011
25 January 2012
29 February 2012
28 March 2012

CHAIR