



Sustainable development panel

09:00 to 11:00

17 December 2014

Present: Councillors Stonard (chair), Sands (M) (vice chair), Ackroyd (to the middle of item 5), Bogelein (substitute for Councillor Stammers), Boswell, Bremner, Herries and Jackson

1. Membership

The panel noted that Councillor Stammers was standing down from the panel with immediate effect. The Green group would be appointing Councillor Bogelein to fill the vacancy on the panel and she would serve as a member for the remainder of the civic year.

2. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2014.

4. Joint core strategy (JCS) annual monitoring report (AMR)

The planner (policy) and the policy team leader (planning) presented the report and answered members' questions.

During discussion members noted the performance of the JCS and where targets were not being met. Discussion ensued on retail vacancy and it was noted that objections to development of retail at Longwater retail park and Taverham Garden Centre had been made by the council. The panel considered the promotion of the city centre by the Norwich Business Improvement District and Visit Norwich. The Norwich Lanes were awarded the first place in the city category by The Great British High Street Awards. The panel also noted that the provision of community facilities would be monitored under the new local plan development management policies.

The panel then discussed changes in the private housing market and importance of improving private rented accommodation. The provision of purpose built student accommodation was noted.

During discussion members considered that park and ride should operate later in the evening but noted that the service was subsidised by the county council and the constraints on its budget. Park and ride was aimed at commuters. Extending the service in the evenings and weekends would benefit the city centre. A member asked why the city did not have a night time bus service like other European towns.

The chair said that bus operators were reluctant to take on such a service and that there were health and safety considerations to be taken into account. There was also the issue that the bus service would move anti-social behaviour to rural towns when people alighted the bus. The student union ran a late bus to the university.

Discussion ensued on the JCS, objective 1: to minimise the contributors to climate change and address its impact. Members considered that the 2008 figures for total CO² emissions per capita were not quantified and that it would be useful to have a sector breakdown figure. The panel was advised it was no longer possible to implement JCS policy 3 as energy efficiency was secured through building regulations. Members noted that the policy had increased aspirations. Concern was expressed about the RAG (red/amber/green) status of the percentage of sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) in a favourable condition or unfavourable recovering condition. Members were advised that the indicator should be amended because, since 2008, there had been an improvement.

Members were advised that there had been a lot of engagement in the consultation on the local plan site allocation policies and development management plans. The consultation statement set out in detail the how the public were engaged in plan making. It was not possible to evidence people who did not engage with consultations.

During discussion members suggested that as the target for renewable energy standards for new homes had been reached new “visionary” targets should be set, particularly where the council was building new homes. Members were advised that Passivhaus technology was not always the best option as there had been problems with air circulation in some buildings. Members were also advised that under paragraph 3.7, Renewable energy capacity permitted by type, of the AMR, there had been no schemes coming forward in Norwich. Small scale solar panels did not require planning permission and were therefore not included in the statistics.

In relation to the JCS objective 7: to enhance transport provision, etc, members were advised that the county council had reduced the collation of data because of budget cuts. It would be possible to obtain data from other sources and data on cycling had been collated for the City Cycle Ambition Grant.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the Joint core strategy annual monitoring report .

5. Integrated waste management strategic objectives: 2014 Annual report

(Councillor Ackroyd left the meeting during this item.)

The environmental services development manager presented the report and answered members’ questions.

During discussion members noted that there had been an unexpected increase in household waste levels despite the implementation of the “Recycling revolution”. This could be attributed to people having more room in their black bins for rubbish which had been stored and therefore was expected to settle down in the coming months. The panel was advised how the council measured waste collections and were advised how behavioural change would be monitored. The increase in

recycling was positive, however, the target of achieving a recycling rate of 50% would not be achieved until the household waste levels were under control.

During discussion the panel considered how recycling could be promoted to students and the reasons why as a group, students did not engage. Members noted that the council had a stand at Freshers' week and that landlords also had a responsibility. Various ways of targeting students were discussed.

Members noted that partnership working with the Norfolk Waste Partnership was integral to the delivery of the waste management service.

In reply to a question, the environmental services manager said that the council promoted the sharing of brown garden waste bins and that it was considering the provision of smaller bins, where garden space was limited.

Discussion ensued on food waste and it was noted that some food waste was found in residual household waste. Members considered that the scheme needed to be re-launched to promote it. Members were advised that a business case was being worked up for a trial provision of food waste caddy liners, either free or at low cost to residents. There would be a further report to a future meeting. Members also noted that major food retailers had a role in preventing food waste and that the county council had been running a "Love food, hate waste" campaign.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

CHAIR