

Sustainable development panel**09:30 to 10:15****25 May 2016**

Present: Councillors Bremner (chair, following election), Herries (vice chair, following election), Brociek-Coulton, Grahame, Jackson, Lubbock, Maguire and Thomas (Va)

1. Appointment of chair

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Bremner as chair for the ensuing civic year.

2. Appointment of vice chair

Councillors Herries and Jackson¹ were nominated for vice chair and when put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Herries as vice chair for the ensuing civic year.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2016.

5. Re-establishment of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership and update to the Local Development Scheme 2016-18

The head of planning services presented the report.

During discussion the head of planning services referred to the report and answered member's questions. Members sought clarification on the governance arrangements and member involvement within the council. The panel noted that the terms of reference for the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) stipulated that meetings would be held in public. The head of planning services said that he anticipated that there would be a similar process to the previous GNDP where partners discussed substantive items and papers would be subject to approval by the city council's cabinet or where appropriate full council. This panel would have an opportunity to consider documentation and make recommendations to cabinet.

¹ Amended to "Jackson" and "Grahame" deleted (sustainable development panel, 29 June 2016)

A member suggested that Norwich which had the largest population of the three partner authorities should have more than three elected members on the GNDP board. She suggested that the membership should comprise members of the majority group and the lead opposition party and that it was not right that people in Norwich had less representation than elsewhere. The head of planning services said the converse argument would be that as the majority of growth was proposed for outside the city council's boundaries in Broadland and South Norfolk it was important that the populations most affected by the growth needed more representation. The chair said that he considered that the partnership arrangements had worked well in the past with each authority co-operating and being represented on an equal level. He did not consider that people in Norwich had been disadvantaged.

RESOLVED to recommend cabinet to:

- (1) endorse the establishment of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership in accordance with the terms of reference attached at Appendix 1 to exercise political leadership for the planning activities carried out jointly by the Greater Norwich local planning authorities, in particular in relation to the Greater Norwich Local Plan; and,
- (2) approve an updated Local Development Scheme, by substitution of the contents of Appendix 2, in place of the relevant sections of the previous Local Development Scheme, for publication under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by section 111 of the Localism Act 2011).

6. Technical Consultation on Greater Norwich Local Plan Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

The planning policy team leader presented the report. A schedule of proposed changes to the draft sustainability appraisal scoping report was circulated at the meeting and would be available on the council's website together with the revised sustainability appraisal scoping report after the meeting.

During discussion, a member asked what would be the status of the sustainability appraisal report (SAR) and would it apply to current development proposals (ie planning applications in the pipeline). The planning policy team leader replied that the report would apply to new unallocated sites identified for development by landowners etc. The role of the report was to help assess sites for development. Current site allocations as agreed under the Local Plan would be "banked" and would need to be considered alongside new site allocations.

In reply to a question, the officers confirmed that where the site allocation had already been agreed, such as Generation Park site use was already allocated, other material planning considerations would be taken into account when assessing the planning applications, such as the five year land supply.

The head of planning services referred members to the draft sustainability appraisal scoping report and pointed out that it contained useful information about population and other indicators. The planning policy team leader said that the index of multiple-deprivation was particularly important and the maps demonstrated where there were

pockets of deprivation within wards. The chair suggested that there should be a reference copy of the scoping report in each of the group rooms as members would be more likely to use it.

The panel noted that the scoping report was a fact based, technical document which provided evidence for the emerging local plan. It was not adopted but would be submitted with the local plan. The report provided a useful up-to-date resource which could be used to test local planning policies against.

The planning policy team leader presented the supplementary report of schedule of proposed changes and answered members' questions. He explained that the reason for Broadland being over 5% below the national average for high level educational qualifications related to the elder population who might not have gone through higher education.

The panel noted the strategic gaps proposed between Hethersett and Wymondham, and Hethersett and Cringleford were not necessarily to protect attractive areas but to ensure that settlements under threat of coalescence were kept separate. In relation to development along the Yare Valley, the planning policy team leader said that the principle of a green structure network was enshrined in the Joint Core Strategy and would be carried over into the replacement local plan. The council also as part of its duty to cooperate would advise Breckland District Council of the need to include a green infrastructure network in its local plan, particularly to protect The Brecks.

RESOLVED to recommend to cabinet that the draft sustainability appraisal scoping report should be published for technical consultation.

CHAIR