

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning Policy and Localism Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on
Thursday, 13 December 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

Portfolio Holder: Pippa Corney

Councillors in attendance:

Scrutiny and Overview Committee monitors: Bridget Smith

Opposition spokesmen: Janet Lockwood

Also in attendance: David Bard, Sue Ellington, Steve Harangozo,
Lynda Harford, Tumi Hawkins and Nick Wright

Officers:

Caroline Hunt	Local Development Framework Team Leader
Keith Miles	Planning Policy Manager
Jo Mills	Planning and New Communities Director
Sarah Stevens	Head of Planning and Economic Development

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Planning Policy & Localism Portfolio Holder signed, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2012.

14. SOUTH CAMBS LOCAL PLAN: ISSUES AND OPTIONS 2 FOR CONSULTATION

The Planning Policy & Localism Portfolio Holder considered a report on the two parts of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Issues and Options 2 Consultation Reports for public consultation from 7 January to 18 February 2013, and seeking her approval to publish new evidence base documents supporting the plan, having considered the recommendation made from the Joint Strategic Transport and Spatial Planning Group (JSTSPG) in respect of the Part 1 joint consultation document produced with Cambridge City Council.

The Planning Policy Manager summarised the consultation process adopted for the new Local Plan, and highlighted the three prioritised search areas for site allocations namely the edge of Cambridge on land removed from the Green Belt, the new town of Northstowe, and the larger and better served villages in South Cambridgeshire designated as Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres. The loss of Cambridge Airport as an intended site for 12,000 homes had prompted a further review of the Green Belt around Cambridge, resulting in the allocation of land for 680 homes, 130 of which would be in South Cambridgeshire.

Councillor John Williams said that the purpose of the Green Belt around Cambridge was to separate the City from the "necklace" villages. He was satisfied that the proposals had sought to strike a balance between the desire for green separation and the need to identify new, and sustainable, development sites close to Cambridge. The Planning Policy Manager assured Members that the review of the Green Belt had been conducted with great care, and the proposals represented the agreed view of officers based on data from

the latest Census and the ten-year prediction of housing demand drawn up by Cambridgeshire County Council.

Councillor Nick Wright pointed out that the Green Belt was coming under pressure from tourism and recreation, as well as housing, and said that this too should be addressed at the Issues and Options stage.

Councillor Steve Harangozo said that transport should be central to future housing development. Maximum use should be made of sites in Cambridge so as to make use of the better public transport links. Accordingly, South Cambridgeshire District Council should use its best endeavours to influence the City Council into revising density levels upwards. Sarah Saunders, Planning Policy Manager, from Cambridge City Council responded to this point. Her underlying point was not to be too prescriptive about density levels generally at this stage but rather to continue with the preferred approach which was to specify density on a site-by-site basis.

The Planning Policy & Localism Portfolio Holder requested a report on the proposal to include in the site options consultation the redevelopment of the current Cambridgeshire County Council Depot at Whittlesford for housing. Councillor David Bard asked that the options consultation includes employment use. The Portfolio Holder would make a decision on whether or not to include the depot site in the publicity material for the public consultation which was scheduled to begin on 7th January 2013. An allocation could lead to a site coming forward elsewhere in South Cambridgeshire for "pooled public services" including several Councils' depot facilities, emergency services etc., thus making the most efficient and effective use of public sector assets.

The Planning Policy & Localism Portfolio Holder **agreed**

1. the joint Part 1 document (Appendix A to the report from the Planning and New Communities Director) and supporting evidence base (Appendices B, C, D, E and F) for consultation;
2. the Sustainability Appraisal of the Part 1 document for consultation (Appendix G);
3. the Part 2 document (Appendix H) and supporting evidence base (Appendix I) for consultation;
4. the Sustainability Appraisal of the Part 2 document for consultation (Appendix J);
5. the consultation arrangements sets out in paragraphs 32 to 35; and
6. that any minor amendments and editing changes, including to make more publicly accessible documents, that need to be made should be agreed in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

The Planning Policy & Localism Portfolio Holder also agreed, in principle and subject to further consideration of the detail, the option for housing on the current Cambridgeshire County Council Depot site at Whittlesford. Such allocation, if confirmed by the Portfolio Holder, could in itself lead to a site coming forward elsewhere in South Cambridgeshire for "pooled public services" including County Council depot facilities, emergency services etc., thus making the most efficient and effective use of public sector assets.

15. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2011-12

The Planning Policy & Localism Portfolio Holder

- **Agreed** for publication on the Council's website the contents of the Annual Monitoring Report (Part 1) (included as **Appendix 2** to the report from the Planning and New Communities Director; and

- **delegated** any further minor editing changes to the Annual Monitoring Report (Part 1) to the Planning and New Communities Director where they are technical matters.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting would take place on 21 March 2013, starting at 10.00am.

The Meeting ended at 11.05 a.m.
