

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on
Tuesday, 12 January 2016 at 2.00 p.m.

Portfolio Holder: Robert Turner

Councillors in attendance:

Scrutiny and Overview Committee monitors: Kevin Cuffley

Opposition spokesmen: Henry Batchelor and Aidan Van de Weyer

Also in attendance: Anna Bradnam, Janet Lockwood and Hazel Smith

Officers:

James Fisher	S106 Officer
Jane Green	Head of New Communities
John Koch	Planning Team Leader (West)
Jo Mills	Planning and New Communities Director
Jennifer Nuttycombe	Senior Planning Policy Officer
David Roberts	Principal Planning Policy Officer
Ian Senior	Democratic Services Officer

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Planning Portfolio Holder signed, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2015.

3. PRE-APPLICATION ADVICE SERVICE

The Planning Portfolio Holder considered a report on the quality and timeliness of pre-application advice currently provided, and proposals for a new fee schedule for 2016-17.

The Portfolio Holder noted progress made in the provision of pre-application advice; and the planned approach in respect of Development Delivery Agreements. He welcomed the absence of any complaints during the previous three months, and said that fees should increase in order to cover the cost of officer time. The Portfolio Holder emphasised the contribution made by the pre-application advice service to the effective processing of planning applications.

The Planning Portfolio Holder

- (a) **Noted** the progress made in the provision of pre-application advice; and the planned approach in respect of Development Delivery Agreements;
- (b) **Endorsed** the principle of a revised fee structure for pre-application advice, with staff costs and inflationary uplifts, details of which will be reported to Cabinet in February 2016, and changes to be implemented from 1 April 2016;

4. **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2014-2015**

The Planning Portfolio Holder considered a report seeking his approval to publish the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report 2014-2015 (AMR) on South Cambridgeshire District Council's website.

The Senior Planning Policy Officer highlighted key elements of Appendix 1, which itself summarised the AMR as a whole. The Planning Portfolio Holder referred to paragraph 13 of the report from the Planning and New Communities Director, and commended officers engaged in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

The Planning Portfolio Holder

- (a) **approved** the contents of the Annual Monitoring Report 2014-2015 (included as Appendix 2 of the report) for publication; and
- (b) **delegated** any further minor editing changes to the Annual Monitoring Report to the Director of Planning and New Communities where they are technical matters.

5. **NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF) - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES**

The Planning Portfolio Holder considered a report seeking his endorsement of a draft response to the Government's proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (National Planning Policy Framework).

Those present discussed the change in the definition of, and implications for, Affordable Housing. Of particular note was the 20% discount afforded to starter homes. The Portfolio Holder informed those present that starter homes would be included within the percentage of Affordable Housing coming forward as part of a development. It was noted, however, that this discount would be lost upon sale after 5 years, thus removing the concept of 'in perpetuity'. The Section 106 Officer said that the Council would still seek a mix of tenure within the general definition of Affordable Housing, subject to viability.

The Planning Portfolio Holder requested that the responses to Questions 11 and 12 should stress the need for South Cambridgeshire District Council to speed up the delivery of housing. The Planning and New Communities Director added that developers should be required to deliver what they had undertaken to deliver.

After further discussion, the Planning Portfolio Holder **agreed** the consultation response set out in Appendix 1 of the report, subject to Questions 11 and 12 being amended to reflect the need to speed up the delivery of housing.

6. **COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) REVIEW**

This item had not been included on the agenda published on 4 January 2016. However, if the Council was going to feed into the Government's working group, a response had to be agreed by 14 January, and it was not therefore possible to defer consideration until the

next scheduled Planning Portfolio Holder meeting on 10 February 2016. The Planning Portfolio Holder and Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee had agreed that this item should be admitted as a late agenda item on the grounds of its urgency.

The Planning Portfolio Holder considered a report seeking his endorsement of the proposed Council response to a Government consultation on the review of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The Section 106 Officer highlighted paragraph 12 of the report, and the implications for Parish Councils of further delay in the adoption of a new Local Plan.

The Portfolio Holder **approved** the draft response as per Appendix B of the report and further provided delegated authority to the Director of Planning and New Communities to submit the response on behalf of the Council.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

The Planning Portfolio Holder noted the Work Programme attached to the agenda.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Planning Portfolio Holder meeting would be on Wednesday 10 February 2016.

The final scheduled Planning Portfolio Holder meeting in 2015-16 would be on Monday 14 March 2016 at 2.00pm.

Arrangements were being made to schedule meetings in June, September and November 2016, and in February 2017.

The Meeting ended at 3.05 p.m.
