

PLANNING AND NEW COMMUNITIES JOINT PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' MEETING

THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2009

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the Planning and New Communities Joint Portfolio Holders' Meeting held on Thursday, 1 October 2009. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Ian Senior.

1. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - CONSULTATION ON SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The New Communities Portfolio Holder **agreed** the following documents for public consultation:

- Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document
- Draft District Design Guide: High Quality and Sustainable Development in South Cambridgeshire Supplementary Planning Document
- Draft Landscape in New Developments Supplementary Planning Document

authority being given to the Corporate Manager (Planning and Sustainable Communities) to make minor amendments, as required.

Other Options Considered: Not relevant

Reason For Decision: Public consultation

2. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The New Communities Portfolio Holder **agreed**, for public consultation, the draft Statement of Community Involvement, authority being given to the Corporate Manager (Planning and Sustainable Communities) to make minor amendment, where necessary.

Other Options Considered: Not relevant

Reason For Decision: Public consultation

3. ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: CORE STRATEGY DRAFT SUBMISSION DOCUMENT, DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PREFERRED OPTIONS, AND SITE ALLOCATIONS ISSUES AND OPTIONS

The New Communities Portfolio Holder **agreed** that South Cambridgeshire District Council should respond to St. Edmondsbury Borough Council's Core Strategy Draft Submission Document in the following terms:

1. Object to Policy CS6

East of England Plan Policy H3 Provision for Gypsies and Travellers requires the provision of a **minimum** of 20 additional pitches in St Edmundsbury between 2006 and 2011. The supporting text to Policy CS6 only refers to making provision for up to 20 pitches by 2011. The wording **up to** 20 pitches restricts provision to no more than 20 pitches. This is not consistent with

Policy H3, which requires local authorities to provide **at least** 1,247 net additional residential pitches by 2011 to provide for the existing backlog. The text at paragraph 4.77 should therefore be amended to be consistent with the requirements in Policy H3.

East of England Plan Policy H3 also requires appropriate provision of pitches to continue beyond 2011, in order to accommodate household growth. This is addressed through the requirement for a 3% compound annual growth rate following regional pitch distribution. This creates an additional requirement for 17 pitches for the period 2011 to 2021. The supporting text to Policy CS6 makes no provision for pitches beyond 2011, and should therefore be amended to be consistent with the requirements in Policy H3.

Policy H3 requires local authorities to work together to establish a network of Transit pitches, requiring 160 pitches across the region by 2011; the location and size of sites should be defined following local studies. Suffolk is required to provide 20 additional pitches; provision should include the Ipswich / Felixstowe area. The supporting text to Policy CS6 makes no reference to Transit sites other than these will be identified through Area Action Plans and the Rural Site Allocations DPD. This does not conform to Policy H3, which requires local studies to determine the location and size of sites. The supporting text should therefore be amended to recognise this and demonstrate how the distribution of these sites will be addressed and delivered.

Policy H4 Provision for Travelling Showpeople requires 184 net additional plots for Travelling Showpeople by 2011, together with a compound increase of 1.5% between 2011 and 2021. Suffolk is required to provide 9 additional plots to 2011 in Suffolk Coastal and elsewhere, and 4 plots between 2011 and 2021. The Core Strategy makes no reference to the level of need that should be provided for, or how this need will be addressed across the county, and should be amended accordingly.

In the same way that the district's housing requirement is addressed in Policy CS1, provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople should be addressed within policy and not in the supporting text. Whilst it is recognised that the actual provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople will be addressed through the Area Action Plans and Rural Site Allocations DPD, there should be an overarching policy in the Core Strategy setting out the numbers to be provided during the plan period.

As drafted, the Core Strategy is not legally compliant, as it does not conform to the Regional Spatial Strategy.

The Core Strategy is not justified – it does not provide the most appropriate strategy when considered against all reasonable alternatives. It should make adequate provision for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation to ensure their needs, as identified through the Regional Spatial Strategy, can be met.

2. Support Vision for Haverhill

Support for the Vision for the regeneration of Haverhill and the aim for making it a more attractive centre and reducing the need for out-commuting. In particular, support the development of sustainable transport solutions to mitigate the difficulties of accessing the strategic road network along the A1307. This should address the existing capacity and safety issues along the A1307 between Haverhill and Cambridge.

3. Support Policy CS1 – St Edmundsbury Spatial Strategy

Support for the development strategy focussing development on the more sustainable, larger service centres where there is greater scope to provide a range of facilities and services to meet local needs, reduce the need to travel, and where possible maximise opportunities for travel by non-car modes. However, this needs to be balanced with opportunities for maximising the reuse of suitable brownfield land and known infrastructure issues. In particular, the Core Strategy will need to be able to demonstrate the deliverability of housing at Bury St Edmunds in the longer term, which may be constrained due to capacity constraints relating to the A14.

4. Support Policy CS8 – Strategic Transport Improvements

Support the intention to work with partners to secure the necessary infrastructure improvements, particularly to address the safety issues along the A1307 between Haverhill and Cambridge, and would urge partnership working with Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, and local Parish Councils.

Other Options Considered: Not relevant

Reason For Decision: Response to consultation

