

# PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 16 December 2013

**Venue:** East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors: David Brackenbury (Chairman)  
Tony Boto (Vice-Chairman)

Peter Baden	Bob Nightingale
Marian Hollomon	Alex Smith
Sylvia Hughes	Jeremy Taylor
David Jenney	Jake Vowles
Gill Mercer	

## **292. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **293. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Glenn Harwood MBE, Sylvia Hobbs and Steven North.

## **294. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

## **295. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

## **296. SECTION 106 PLANNING AGREEMENTS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT- CONSULTATION DRAFT**

Further to the decisions made at the joint meeting with the Policy and Resources Committee on 9 December 2013 regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), it was reported that as part of the Draft Charging Schedule consultation, it would be necessary to publish a range of supporting documents. Most importantly, this would need to include details about the Council's intentions towards the future use of Section 106 Planning Agreements in order to clearly set out how these Agreements would work alongside CIL. A replacement for the 2006 Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was therefore required to be prepared.

A draft Section 106 Planning Agreements Supplementary Planning Document was submitted for consideration together with an outline of the procedure to be followed to adopt the SPD. An update sheet was circulated setting out a number of proposed amendments to the draft SPD and it was noted that in order to avoid any confusion about the status of the SPD when consultation commenced on the CIL Draft Charging Schedule, the document would be labelled as a preliminary draft SPD.

In reviewing the document, the Committee agreed a number of amendments and these would be incorporated into the document and a revised copy circulated to Members before it was published.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the publication of the draft Section 106 Planning Agreements Supplementary Planning Document be approved
  - a) for consultation during early 2014 as a supporting evidence base document to the Draft Charging Schedule and
  - b) for submission to the Secretary of State, as part of the supporting evidence base to the Draft Charging Schedule.
- ii) a copy of the SPD incorporating the amendments agreed by the Committee, and including tracked changes, be circulated to Members and should any further minor changes be required in the document prior to consultation commencing, the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Chairman of Planning Policy Committee, be authorised to make any necessary changes..

*(Reason – to ensure that the Council’s CIL bid is supported by a comprehensive and robust evidence base)*

**297. OPEN SPACE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT UPDATE**

Further to the decisions made at the joint meeting with the Policy and Resources Committee on 9 December 2013, Officers had reviewed the 2011 Open Space Supplementary Planning Document and had identified a range of relatively minor changes that would need to be made in order to bring it into line with CIL. A number of other minor alterations were also proposed and a draft Open Space SPD was submitted for consideration together with an outline of the procedure to be followed to adopt the SPD.

An update sheet was circulated setting out a number of further amendments proposed to the draft SPD and it was noted that in order to avoid any confusion about the status of the SPD when consultation commenced on the CIL Draft Charging Schedule, the document would be labelled as a preliminary draft SPD.

In reviewing the document, the Committee agreed a number of amendments and these would be incorporated into the document and a revised copy circulated to Members before it was published.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the publication of the Open Space Supplementary Planning Document Update be approved

- a) for consultation during early 2014 as a supporting evidence base document to the Draft Charging Schedule and
  - b) for submission to the Secretary of State, as part of the supporting evidence base to the Draft Charging Schedule.
- ii) a copy of the SPD incorporating the amendments agreed by the Committee, and including tracked changes, be circulated to Members and should any further minor changes be required in the document prior to consultation commencing, the Head of Planning in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Policy Committee, be authorised to make any necessary changes..

*(Reason – to ensure that the Council’s CIL bid is supported by a comprehensive and robust evidence base)*

**298. RUSHDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA BOUNDARY**

It was reported that the statutory consultation for the Rushden Neighbourhood Plan boundary had taken place from 16 August – 14 October 2013 in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and comments had been invited as to whether there was any reason why the District Council should not make the designation in respect of Rushden.

A summary of the representations received and Officer responses to the issues raised was considered and it was

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the summary of representations received during the recent 6-weeks Regulation 6 consultations, regarding the proposed Rushden Neighbourhood Plan area boundary be noted
- ii) the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary for Rushden, as put forward in the formal notice of application for the designation of this Neighbourhood Area (25 June 2013) be endorsed.

*(Reason – to enable Rushden Town Council to progress with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan).*

**299. ADOPTION OF REVISED NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

It was reported that all Local Planning Authorities were required to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) setting out how it would consult and engage with people over the preparation of development plan documents and on planning applications.

The previous SCI for East Northamptonshire had been adopted by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee in 2006. However, given subsequent changes to the planning system the 2006 SCI was now out of date and it had been necessary to comprehensively update it.

Accordingly, the Planning Policy Committee had approved a draft SCI for consultation on 22 July 2013 and consultation had taken place from 16 August – 11 October 2013. The consultation responses and SCI for adoption were reported to the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee (JPC) on 14 November 2013. The JPC resolved to adopt the 2013 SCI in relation to jointly prepared documents, also recommending that the partner Local Planning Authorities (including East Northamptonshire Council) should adopt it in relation to their responsibilities.

The Committee had considered the published consultation draft SCI on 16 September 2013 and agreed a consultation response, which had then been sent to the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU). Consequently, the JPU had made a number of changes to the consultation draft SCI which had been incorporated into the SCI adopted by the JPC on 14 November 2013 and which had now been circulated to the North Northamptonshire Local Planning Authorities for adoption by individual Borough and District Councils.

The Committee was minded to retain the phrasing it had agreed previously and which had been changed in the version adopted by the JPC. Accordingly, paragraph 5.12 would need to be amended to the text agreed by the Committee in July 2013.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That subject to the following amendments being incorporated, the Revised North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement be adopted as a statutory planning policy document for East Northamptonshire Council.

- i) Paragraph 4.9, Table 1:  
Include the Fire and Rescue Service in the list of General Consultation Bodies.
- ii) Paragraph 5.12
  - a) Delete “locally significant” and replace with “locally significant and controversial”.
  - b) Delete “Developers/applicants are encouraged” and replace with “Developers/applicants will need to”

*(Reason – to update the SCI in line with relevant legislation)*

#### **300. RUSHDEN EAST PROJECT BOARD**

At the last meeting of the Committee it had been agreed to establish a Project Board to oversee the planning and implementation of Rushden East. The Board would consist of five ENC Members together with two Rushden Town Council Members and one Northamptonshire County Council Member.

Higham Ferrers Town Council had written to this Council seeking the appointment of two representatives of the Town Council on the Project Board in view of the close connection between the two towns and the likelihood of the development at Rushden East involving some land within their area.

It was considered that some representation from Higham Ferrers on the Project Board would be appropriate, but in order to maintain a manageable size for the Board and the likely balance of development within the two areas, one representative would be appropriate.

**RESOLVED:**

That one representative from Higham Ferrers Town Council be invited to join the Rushden East Project Board.

*(Reason – to make progress on masterplanning Rushden East)*

**301. PLANNING POLICY WORK**

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager presented an update on the work being undertaken by the Planning Policy and Conservation team.

The Committee requested that an update of progress against the work plan be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

**Chairman**