

# PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 17 March 2014

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

**Time:** 7.30pm

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

<b>Glenn Harwood MBE</b>	<b>Bob Nightingale</b>
<b>Sylvia Hughes</b>	<b>Alex Smith</b>
<b>David Jenney</b>	<b>Jeremy Taylor</b>
<b>Gill Mercer</b>	

## **419. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **420. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Baden, Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, Marian Hollomon, Steven North and Jake Vowles.

## **421. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

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

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

## **423. DRAFT WIND AND SOLAR SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager reported that following the decision made by the Committee on 16 September 2013, a combined Wind and Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) had been prepared, together with a Wind Turbine Landscape Sensitivity Study and a Solar Landscape Sensitivity Study which formed background evidence for the SPD.

The SPD had been drafted in conjunction with a Member Working Party and a consultant had been engaged - Mr Mike Haybyrne, who attended the meeting to answer Members' questions on the content of the draft SPD.

The Committee reviewed the draft SPD and a number of amendments were put forward which would be incorporated into the document prior to public consultation being carried out and the Head of Planning Services undertook to circulate the final draft to Members of the Committee, prior to consultation commencing. The final draft SPD and responses to the consultations would be reported to the Committee in due course.

**RESOLVED:**

That subject to the inclusion of the revisions advocated by Members, the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, be authorised to approve the draft Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation, along with the supporting sensitivity study documents.

*(Reason – to provide a planning guidance document for potential energy developers)*

**424. FOUR TOWNS PLAN SITE SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT DEVELOPING POLICIES AND PROPOSALS, TOWARDS PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION**

The Senior Planning Policy Officer reported that further to the decision made at the Council Issues Debate on 12 February 2014 to continue with the preparation of a Four Towns Plan site specific development plan document for the south of the District, consideration had been given to the scope of the emerging Four Towns Plan. This included the range of options and site specific proposals that might be taken forward into the Plan.

It was noted that whilst the content of the Four Towns Plan could be progressed, preferred options could not be determined until the contents of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy were known.

The Committee considered the list of themes and topics which the Four Towns Plan ought to address. It was confirmed that the Raunds North (Phase 3) had been included in the list as it was recognised that the site was being promoted by the developer. Members suggested that the Plan should also include topics on fast food takeaways and potential employment sites.

**RESOLVED:**

That subject to the inclusion of:

- a) Economic Development – potential employment areas, and
- b) Town Centres and Retail – saturation policy for fast food takeaways

the proposed policy content/ topics set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report be endorsed as an appropriate draft structure/ framework for the Four Towns Plan.

*(Reason – to enable the Council to progress with the preparation of the Four Towns Plan site specific development plan document).*

**425. PLANNING POLICY AND CONSERVATION UPDATE**

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager provided the Committee with an update on work currently being undertaken by the Planning Policy and Conservation team.

It was also noted that a lack of staff resources had delayed progress on some items of work within the programme and the Head of Planning Services informed Members that a report would be submitted to the Personnel Sub-Committee in the near future with proposals to address this issue.

**RESOLVED:**

That the programme of work be noted.

*(Reason – to provide an update for Members' information)*

**Chairman**