



Housing Policy Sub-Committee

Draft Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 12 June 2018 at 2.00pm, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

Present: Councillors: Steven North
David Jenney
Val Carter
Tony Boto

Officers: Sharn Matthews (Executive Director and Monitoring Officer)
Paul Bland (Head of Planning Services)
Carol Conway (Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager)
Jenny Walker (Environmental Protection Manager)
Richard Palmer (Planning Policy and Conservation Manager)

1.0 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Tony Boto be appointed Chairman of the Housing Policy Sub Committee for the year 2018/19.

2.0 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Richard Lewis be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Housing Policy Sub-Committee.

3.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Lewis and Sarah Peacock and officers, Aine Cooper, Housing Enabling Officer, Louise Bagley, Housing Services Officer and Chris Spong, Housing and Planning Officer.

4.0 TO NOTE THAT THE SUB-COMMITTEE IS OPERATING UNDER THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE HOUSING POLICY WORKING PARTY, UNTIL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION ARE APPROVED AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

4.1 The Terms of Reference for the Housing Policy Working Party were noted. Members requested that the new Terms or Reference did not include specific names.

5.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

5.1 No interests were declared.

6.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

6.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

7.0 STRATEGIC HOUSING REPORT

7.1 The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager presented the draft Strategic Housing Plan, providing an overview of the amendments made to it. Changes to the licensing

legislation in respect of Houses in Multiple Occupancy were explained, and it was noted that this would have an impact on officer workloads due to the increased number of properties in the district that would require a license.

- 7.2 During discussion on the item, Members proposed a number of amendments to the draft document.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

- i) That the Strategic Housing Plan be approved, subject to the agreed amendments being made.

(Reason: to ensure that the strategic direction of the housing service is fit for purpose and accords with legislation)

RESOLVED:

- i) That the contents of the Equalities Impact Assessment be noted.

(Reason: to ensure that the strategic direction of the housing service is fit for purpose and accords with legislation)

8.0 VERBAL UPDATE ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NATIONAL PLANING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF) CHANGES AND LOCAL PLAN MAKING FOR HOUSING MIX.

- 8.1 The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager gave a presentation outlining the potential implications that the NPPF changes could have when they are implemented.

- 8.2 During discussion on the item, Members raised concerns about the potential lack of time available to test the Local Plan against NPPF requirements. Officers advised that positive promotion opportunities for aspirational housing on appropriate sites would be explored, entailing direct contact with site and development promoters on specific sites that may be appropriate for the delivery of larger aspirational housing..

RESOLVED:

That the verbal update on revisions to the NPPF be noted and that opportunities for exploring the positive promotion of larger aspirational housing be identified and implemented by the Head of Planning Services and relevant colleagues

That a Housing Mix SPD would not now be pursued and that a policy in the emerging Local Plan Part 2 would cover the matter of encouraging larger aspirational housing in the south of the district as part of a re-balancing of the housing mix in East Northamptonshire.

9.0 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE HOUSING OPTIONS CONTRACT WORKING PARTY

- 9.1 The Sub-Committee appointed three Members to the Housing Options Contract Working Party.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

That Councillors Richard Lewis, Tony Boto and David Jenney be appointed to the Housing Options Contract Working Party.

(Reason: To meet constitutional requirements)

10.0 TO AGREE THE COMMENCEMENT TIME FOR FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

10.1 The options for the commencement times of future meetings were discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the commencement time for future meetings of the Sub-Committee be no later than 10am.

(Reason: To ensure the efficient workings of the Sub-Committee)

Chairman