

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: 22 November 2010

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: - David Brackenbury (Chairman)
Roger Powell (Vice-Chairman)

David Bateman
Tony Boto
Lisa Costello
Roger Glithero JP
Philip Hardcastle
Dudley Hughes JP

Eloise Lucille
Steven North
Ron Pinnock
Phillip Stearn
Pam Whiting

280. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

281. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Albert Campbell and Michael Finch sent their apologies.

282. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Personal Interests

Members declared personal interests in the items below as indicated. They remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting when the respective item was considered.

Member	Item	Nature of Interest
David Brackenbury	All planning policy matters regarding Thrapston	Lives in Thrapston
Dudley Hughes	All planning policy matters regarding Raunds	Lives in Raunds and his wife is also a District Councillor
Eloise Lucille	All planning policy matters regarding Raunds	Ward Member for Stanwick and owns property in Stanwick
Roger Powell	All planning policy matters regarding Rushden	Lives in Rushden
Pam Whiting	All planning policy matters regarding Higham Ferrers	Ward Member for Higham Ferrers and lives in Higham Ferrers

283. RE-SCHEDULING OF AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee agreed that agenda items 7 (Raunds Masterplan Progress Report) and 8 (North Northamptonshire Local Investment Plan) be brought forward on the agenda.

284. RAUNDS MASTERPLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received a document summarising the outcomes of the Enquiry by Design Workshop events held in Raunds during October and November 2010 as part of the public consultation on the Raunds Masterplan.

The outcomes from the consultation would be tested for viability and compatibility with national, local and other planning policies. A draft Masterplan document would then be produced in early December 2010 for approval by a small Member working group for public consultation in December 2010/January 2011. The results of the consultation would be included in the final Raunds Masterplan document for submission to the Committee for approval.

The Raunds Enquiry Summary and emerging objectives and principles were noted by Members and the following issues on the outcomes document were made:

- The Raunds Masterplan document should take account of emerging policies as well as adopted policies contained within the Core Spatial Strategy
- A balanced view on growth options for all the towns in the district was required because there had been substantial levels of growth in Thrapston and Raunds
- The no growth option was not considered to be realistic because some growth was required for the Raunds area
- There should be more emphasis on encouraging employment growth for Raunds rather than more housing because of infrastructure issues.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors David Brackenbury, Tony Boto and Lisa Costello be appointed to a small working group to consider and approve the draft Raunds Masterplan for public consultation in December 2010.

285. NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LOCAL INVESTMENT PLAN

The final draft North Northamptonshire Local Investment Plan (LIP) was submitted for consideration. It had been prepared by the LIP Steering Group to direct any future Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) funding to regeneration, economic growth and community development schemes in North Northamptonshire. The final version of the document would be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval. It would have to be approved by all four constituent authorities before being adopted.

Members noted that the level of funding for projects from the HCA would be less than previous years and raised the following issues on the draft document:

- There was concern that towns in East Northamptonshire had not been given sufficient consideration and priority in the document
- How would the LIP relate to Development Plan Documents in East Northamptonshire?

- It was important that East Northamptonshire Council put forward a wish list of potential sites for development in order to receive future funding. Unless this was done, funding would not be given to the Council
- Viability and deliverability of schemes were the key to progressing schemes under the LIP
- The Council's 40% affordable housing target should be reviewed to be more in line with the other constituent authorities which had a 30% target
- There was little or no mention of development in the rural areas of East Northamptonshire
- Existing town plans should be used as the basis for future town Masterplans
- There was no mention in the document that part of the development at Priors Hall Corby was within East Northamptonshire.

The Housing Strategy Manager stated that the document focused on schemes which were deliverable and that funding would be given to those schemes that were ready to proceed. It was agreed that Members should inform the Manager about any other potential priorities for development in the district for inclusion in the LIP document.

To take account of Member's views, it was suggested that a small Member and Officer working group be formed to consider the draft LIP document in more detail and make alterations as necessary for further consideration by the Committee at its next meeting. The revised document would then be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for final approval.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors David Brackenbury, Philip Hardcastle and Eloise Lucille be appointed to a small Member and Officer working group to re-examine the draft Local Investment Plan (LIP) document and agree the text for submission to the next Planning Policy Committee meeting on 24 January 2011 for further consideration before being submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for final approval.

286. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME UPDATE

Members considered an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) which had been revised to comply with current Planning Inspectorate guidance.

There was concern about how the new localism policies would affect progress with the LDS and uncertainty on how to proceed. Members were informed that until further guidance was received from the Government, the existing planning framework had to be complied with.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) timetable for the preparation of the Four Towns Plan from November 2010 until July 2013 be approved, and the revised LDS timetable be submitted to the Secretary of State for agreement to bring this timetable into effect.
- (2) That the Planning Policy Committee considers the emerging evidence base for the Four Towns Plan in conjunction with the relevant Area Working Parties as appropriate.

287. NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HOUSING TARGETS – DRAFT STATEMENT OF INTENT - CONSULTATION

It was reported that the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) was reviewing the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (CCS) housing targets and had requested comments on the following three options:

- Option 1 - Continue with the adopted CSS trajectory (delivery of 9,400 dwellings by 2021).
- Option 2 - Extend the CSS 9,400 dwellings target forward to 2026 (the proposed Interim position).
- Option 3 - Extend the CSS 9,400 dwellings target forward to 2031 (the low growth scenario).

Members considered the suggestion that Option 2 be the preferred approach for East Northamptonshire. This would drop the annual housing completion target in this district from 487 dwellings to 325, which was regarded as a more realistic figure. The possibility of extending the date to 2028 was also discussed, which would reduce the figure to 286 completions, but if this was not acceptable it was suggested that it be extended to 2031.

It was noted that the JPU report reviewing the targets submitted to the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee on 22 September 2010 failed to mention that 735 dwellings at the Priors Hall site were within East Northamptonshire.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That, subject to the target date being extended to 2028, Option 2, the Interim position on housing targets for East Northamptonshire contained within the draft “Statement of Intent on Housing Targets for North Northamptonshire” document, be agreed.
- (2) That if the target date of 2028 is not acceptable, then it be extended to 2031.

288. CONTINUATION OF MEETING – COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8

During consideration of the above item, the Chairman reported that the two hour period under the above Rule had been reached and it was

RESOLVED:

That the remaining business on the agenda be completed.

Chairman