

Minutes



To: All Members of the Growth Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy Cabinet Panel, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Michelle Diprose
Ext: 25566

GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY CABINET PANEL WEDNESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2018

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

D A Ashley (Chairman), S J Featherstone, S K Jarvis, A K Khan, P Mason, G McAndrew, R H Smith (substitute for S Boulton), A Stevenson (Vice-Chairman), S Taylor, A S B Walkington, M A Watkin (substitute for S Bedford), J A West,

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

D Andrews, E Buckmaster, M Eames-Petersen

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy meeting on 14 November 2018 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

*Note: S Taylor declared an interest as recorded at minute 3 and 8.
A Stevenson declared an interest as recorded at minute 3.*

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & The Economy Cabinet Panel meeting held on 20 September 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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2 PUBLIC PETITIONS

2.1 No notices of petitions have been received

3. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) UPDATE

Officer Contact: Neil Hayes, Executive Director, Local Enterprise Partnership

3.1 S Taylor and A Stevenson declared an interest as they were both Board Members on the Hertfordshire LEP

3.2 The Panel received a presentation providing an update and any current issues in relation to the LEP and current Government economic development related initiatives

3.3 The presentation covered:

- Local Industry Strategy
- LEP review update
- LEP Call for projects
- State of the economy
- Key project milestones

3.4 In response to a Member question it was noted the £24m in growth deal that was available from the Metropolitan Line Extension was capital money and would still be spent.

3.5 In relation to the regeneration of Stevenage it was noted the funding was held back on the basis of ongoing discussions on how to best use the funding.

3.6 Members were informed that a report to summarise the availability of high quality employment space was not due to be published until December but headline notes could be provided to the Committee prior to the reports publication. The Panel noted one project currently underway was to identify temporary accommodation for Biotec in Stevenage.

*Neil Hayes,
LEP to action*

3.7 The Panel were informed that in relation to Brexit there were ongoing conversations with MPs in Westminster on how they could work together to face some of the issue for the county post-Brexit.

CONCLUSION:

3.8 Members noted the presentation from LEP

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4 ADOPTION OF THE REVISED MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Officer Contact: Hannah Regis, Planning Officer, Spatial and Land Use Planning Tel: (01992) 556051

- 4.1 The Panel received a report to seek Members approval to the changes made to the Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS), attached at Appendix 1 to the report, and consequently the new timetable attached at Appendix 2.

CONCLUSION

- 4.2 That the Panel recommend to Cabinet that it recommends to Council that Council adopts the revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and approves the revised timetable for document production, attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

5. MINERALS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – PUBLICATION OF SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

Officer Contact: Julie Greaves, Minerals & Waste Policy Manager, Spatial Planning Unit, Tel: (01992) 556227

- 5.1 The Panel received a report to seek Members’ approval for the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) Submission Document, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, for publication prior to submission to the Secretary of State for Examination into soundness by an independent Planning Inspector and approval to the Omission Sites document, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, for a separate consultation to be run in parallel.

- 5.2 Members were informed that the MLP is monitored each year, through the Local Aggregates Assessment, if sites do not come forward, the Local Aggregates Assessment would inform officers of this and other sites may need to be identified. The identification of a Preferred Area allows for some flexibility.

- 5.3 In relation to a Member concern regarding a number of mineral sites concentrated in one area, it was noted that the geology of the County will dictate areas that come forward for extraction, these sites in particular, are being promoted by CEMEX in conjunction with the landowners and are also being promoted (via the WHBC local plan)for housing development.

- 5.4 Panel Members specified they had received many representations from constituents and asked officers how these

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representations would be fed back to the Inspector. Officers confirmed they would submit a schedule of representation to the Inspector for consideration.

- 5.5 Officers reiterated that the identified sites would still need to go through the planning application process even if they are allocated in the Minerals Local Plan following an Examination in Public by an independent planning inspector. .
- 5.6 In response to the local Member who addressed the Panel raising some concerns on behalf of the MP and his constituents for the Briggins Estate, Olives Farm site, officers confirmed that mineral extraction is not 'inappropriate' in the green belt, subject to maintaining the openness and the other purposes of the green belt. The County Council officers have been engaged with East Herts district Council for a number of years. It was also noted that the site promoter, Tarmac had carried out a considerable amount of work and was in contact with the County on a regular basis. In relation to traffic volumes on the A414 and access, Members were informed meetings with both highways and Tarmac are ongoing. The Panel were informed that the National Planning Policy Framework gives weight to the need for aggregate and moving mineral that is closer to a housing development site is better than having to ship aggregate into the site from further away. In terms of the site being close to a school and concerns relating to higher level of dust, it was advised that Air Quality Impact was assessed at a high level at this stage and that the air quality would need to be assessed further at the planning application stage.
- 5.7 In response to a supplemental question officers informed the local Member that sites would be refilled with clean inert material and not landfill.
- 5.8 Officer confirmed to the Panel that all representations received were responded to.

CONCLUSION:

- 5.9 That the Panel recommend to Cabinet that Cabinet recommends to Council that Council approves:
- (a) the Submission Minerals Local Plan, attached as Appendix 1 to the report for publication for a period of ten weeks in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 prior to formal submission to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination; and

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(b) endorsed the Omission Sites document be subject to a parallel consultation process.

6. ANNUAL LOCAL AGGREGATES ASSESSMENT AND AUTHORITY'S MONITORING REPORT

Officer Contact: Emma Chapman, Planning Assistant Tel: 01992 556275

- 6.1 The Panel received a report seeking it to consider the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority's annual monitoring reports; Hertfordshire's Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) and Hertfordshire's Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA).
- 6.2 Members heard that local aggregates apportionments were arrived at for each authority through the sub-national guidelines by working on the national figure and dividing into regions then sub-regions.
- 6.3 In relation to the concerns on housing development numbers it was noted the numbers for development were taken from the adopted local plans at the time. It was agreed that the revised figures would be included in future for the annual assessment report.

CONCLUSION:

- 6.4 That the Cabinet Panel is:
 - i) Considered and noted both the AMR and the LAA as outlined in the report, attached as Appendix 1(AMR) and Appendix 2 (LAA) and
 - ii) Acknowledged that both documents would be placed on the County Council's website. .

7. NEW LONDON PLAN UPDATE

Officer Contact: Paul Donovan, Team Leader, Strategic Land Use Telephone: (01992) 556289

- 7.1 The Panel received a report which gave an update on the progress with the preparation by the Mayor of London of the new London Plan, the next steps and the support for the ongoing approach to the County Council's engagement.

7.2 Members were informed the London Plan had been in preparation for a number of years, but only recently has it become clear that the Mayor is seeking willing partner local authorities beyond London to help meet London's housing needs. There are not believed to currently be any willing partners in the East of England. The County Council's engagement in the Examination into the Plan in the New Year will be a collaborative one with other local authorities in the East of England under the auspices of the East of England Local Government Association.

7.3 In relation to the housing being developed in Stevenage it was noted that fifty percent was being sold to Londoners and approximately seventy percent was being built with permitted development rights. Amongst other matters this meant that housing was coming forward without proper consideration of the infrastructure required to support it. Members agreed that the issue of the scale of housing coming forward under permitted development rights should be referred to the Growth Board.

Conclusion

7.4 The Panel:

- i. noted the progress on the new London Plan and the County Council's ongoing engagement with the new London Plan
- ii. Referred the scale of housing coming forward under permitted development rights to the Growth Board.

8. SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TOWNS

Officer Contact: Trevor Mason, Team Leader Strategic Transport & Rail Telephone: 01992 556117

8.1 S Taylor declared an interest as she was a District Councillor for Stevenage.

8.1 The Panel received a report setting out the proposals for taking forward the concept of Sustainable Travel Towns which would form the key new programme within the recently adopted Local Transport Plan.

8.2 Members were pleased to receive a clear report which was a forward thinking programme and believed the emphasis on partnership working was at the right level. A few suggestion from Members they would like to see in the Sustainable Travel Town Plan were:

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- Decluttering of footways to be broadened out wider and make into 'living streets'
- Accessibility for disabled – there should be appropriate access for the disabled community.

Members were informed the Sustainable Travel Town programme would be subject to a full equality impact assessment.

8.3 In response to a number of questions from Members it was noted:

- 'A Town' would not be a number of towns joined together and would be flexible
- business groups, district and borough councils and planning teams would be involved
- funding was difficult to source but if a plan was put forward with support from other authorities and organisations it would be easier to seek funding from central Government
- that there were no guarantees that the plan would be delivered.

8.4 Members agreed that local input was vital to the plan and believed there was a clear role for local Members to work with local planning groups. The plan was a direction of travel and could motivate local groups to have an input.

CONCLUSION:

- 8.5.
1. That Panel supports the overall structure of Sustainable Travel Towns as set out in Sections 5 to 7.
 2. That Panel supports the application, selection and prioritisation process for developing a programme of Sustainable Travel Towns and the delivery proposals as set out in Sections 8 to 10
 3. That Panel approves the launch of the Sustainable Travel Towns programme, including the circulation of expression of interest packs to local planning authorities and other interested parties

9. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT A414 CORRIDOR STRATEGY

Officer Contact: Rupert Thacker, Highways - Head of Highways Strategy and Implementation Tel: 01992 658176

9.1 The Panel received a report for consideration which presented the Draft A414 Corridor Strategy and conclusions of the supporting Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment

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- 9.2 Members were informed there were 14 segments to on the A414 corridor and it was aligned to the LTP4. In response to a Member concern over some of the summary not being clear, it was noted the summary document was difficult to put into plain English as it was a complex document.
- 9.3 Members were given an overview of the structure of the consultation process. They were informed officers were working with the communications team and there would be online consultations and hard copies available in libraries. Members noted there would be a free text field in both online and hard copy consultation documents to provide people to add any additional comments.
- 9.4 In relation to a comment that the options needed to be realistic, the Panel were informed discussions with Highways and Department from Transport to help keep the strategy sustainable.
- 9.5 Members noted the strategy was also owned by Essex and Harlow as joint partners. It was also noted the behaviours needed to change now and improvements to the A414 have to be made post 2031.

Conclusion

- 9.6 The Cabinet Panel
- i. commented on the content of the draft A414 Corridor Strategy Report, :attached as Appendices A to E of the report:
 - ii. noted the 12 week public consultation on the A414 Corridor Strategy from early December 2018

10. OTHER PART I BUSINESS

- 10.1 There was no other Part I business.

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

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