

Agenda Item No 9d

Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

Summary: A report on the working of the Planning Committee since the last scheduled meeting of the Council

Recommendations: The report be noted

Cabinet member(s): Derek Blake	Ward(s) affected: All
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Contact Officer, telephone number, and e-mail:

1. Area Planning Committees

The three Area Planning Committees have met as follows:

East Area – 15 May, 12 June & 10 July.

North West Area – 19 May, 11 June, 16 June & 14 July.

South West – 20 May, 16 June & 15 July.

The Chairman of each Committee will be pleased to answer any questions in relation to their respective meetings.

However please note that a special meeting of North West was called on 11 June to hear application 2008/0592/F relating to the erection of three wind turbines on land at Group Lotus, Hethel. This application was refused by the Committee but has been referred to Main Planning Committee to be heard on Wednesday 23 July.

2. Main Planning Committee

This Committee sat on Wednesday 28 May and there were just two applications which were not major applications and both related to the erection of dwellings at Fersfield and Aslacton, both of which were approved.

3. LDF (GNDP)

A meeting for Members was held on Thursday 8 May to bring them up to date on the various proposals and options of the GNDP Group.

On 19th June a meeting of Cabinet, Officers and LDF Members took place to discuss and agree South Norfolk's position in relation to the proposals of the GNDP Group for the development of the Norwich Policy Area.

It was agreed that an option tabled by South Norfolk should be the preferred option as opposed to the allocation (options) supported by the other partners of the GNDP. This would reduce the allocation at Wymondham, allocate homes to Long Stratton with a view to achieving a by-pass and in the longer term create a new town in the Mangreen/Swardeston area.

On 24 June a GNDP meeting was held at which the preferred proposal of South Norfolk (now Option 3 of GNDP) was re-iterated for consideration. The meeting concluded that additional work and assessment of Option 3 was required and could be achieved due to the policy changes by the Government, creating greater flexibility and extending the discussion and submission date to Spring of 2009.

On Wednesday 25 June a SNC LDF Group Meeting was held at which Members were apprised of the result of the GNDP meeting the day previous. It was noted that a further joint consultation on behalf of each of the partners would take place with parties that had indicated an interest.

4. Pendleton Review (IT Strategy – Planning)

On Thursday 29 May a meeting took place in the Council Chamber in respect of the above when Jay Patel of Pendleton Associates presented his report to Officers of the Planning Department and some Members.

It was clear that the department had adapted positively and embraced with significant effort the IT strategy but that much more work was necessary to ensure that the system was effective and efficient. Two important recommendations were the appointment of a Project Manager and a System Administrator together with Section Champions to drive the system forward over the next two years. This is a matter of urgent need within the department and must be addressed at the earliest.

5. Director of Planning, Housing and the Built Environment

Andrew Gregory has been appointed to the above position and commenced his position on Monday 21 July (today). On behalf of the Planning and Housing Officers together

with the Chairman and Members of the Planning Committees as well as all Members generally Andrew is afforded a warm welcome and is wished every success in the future.

A meeting with Planning Chairman and Vice Chairman has been arranged for Thursday 24 July.

Cllr: Martin Wynne (Chairman of Planning)

7 July, 08