2544 HOUSING WHITE PAPER – SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL RESPONSE

The Subject of the Decision

Members considered the report of the Planning Policy Manager, which presented Cabinet with a draft response to the Government’s Housing White Paper and Build to Rent Documents.
The Planning Policy Manager outlined the key areas of the report to members. He explained that a number of significant changes to the planning and housing system had been proposed, but stressed that there were still some uncertainty about timing and extent, and he expected further consultation on these proposals to follow.

Members noted that some areas of proposed change had been previously suggested and supported by the Council, including enhanced and simplified powers of compulsory purchase, an increase in planning application fees, changes to the starter homes regimes, and greater protection from strategic employment from conversion to starter homes. Members also welcomed the recognition of the key role for Local Authorities in the direct delivery of homes on their own land.

The Chairman referred to the need for a more even distribution of development in South Norfolk, keeping smaller villages alive, and providing employment for smaller local builders, as opposed to the larger developers. Some concern was expressed with regard to the development of small windfall sites on unallocated sites and Cllr M Gray suggested that the Council’s response (Question 8), should stress the need for any such sites to be close to the village boundary. The Planning Policy Manager explained that the Government’s Housing White Paper did refer to windfall sites as “adjacent to village boundaries”, however, he stressed that the Council’s preference was a “plan-led” approach.

Reference was also made to Questions 1 and 2, where minor textual adjustments were agreed. In particular it was suggested that the response for Question 2 should draw upon the Council’s experiences from the last Local Plan.

Cllr Y Bendle was pleased to note that the White Paper encouraged housing delivery in all tenures, and she stressed the importance of houses to rent, in addition to those to buy.

**The Decision**

**RESOLVED:** To:

a) Agree the “headline” South Norfolk Council response to the Housing White Paper and Build-to-Rent consultation (set out in Appendix A and paragraphs 3.34 and 3.35 above); and

b) Delegate authority to the Director of Growth and Localism, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for External Affairs, to agree the full responses and submit these by the closing date of the consultation.
The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that the Council’s views are considered by the Government.

Other Options Considered

None.

2545 EASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2017-2042 – SUBMISSION FOR EXAMINATION

The Subject of the Decision

Members considered the report of the Senior Planning Officer, which presented Cabinet with draft proposed comments for the Examiner, to consider during the examination of the Easton Neighbourhood Plan.

The Senior Planning Officer explained that many of the comments received during the Pre-Submission stage of the Neighbourhood Plan, had been accepted with appropriate modifications being made. However, he drew attention to paragraph 4 of the report, which outlined a small number of issues that remained to be resolved, explaining that it was proposed that these be forwarded to the Examiner, for consideration during the examination of the Plan.

Referring to paragraph 4 (parking spaces per dwelling), Cllr M Dewsbury, local member for Easton, reminded members that sufficient parking on housing developments was important to avoid future issues arising. However, she welcomed the report, and felt that agreement could be reached regarding all the outstanding issues.

The Decision

RESOLVED: To:

a) Agree that the comments set out in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of this report be forwarded to the Examiner appointed, to examine the Easton Neighbourhood Plan as the representation of South Norfolk Council; and
b) Authorise the Director of Growth and Localism to undertake any further work necessary to pursue the Council’s representations through the Examination process.

The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure an effective and sustainable Neighbourhood Plan, that can deliver the vision and objectives of the community.

Other Options Considered

None

2546 GREATER NORWICH JOINT FIVE YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN 2017/18 -2021/22

The Subject of the Decision

Members considered the report of the Planning Policy Manager, which sought Cabinet approval and recommendation to Council, for the Joint Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan for Greater Norwich.

The Chairman introduced the report and stressed the need for further clarification regarding the matter of maintenance costs and a number of other outstanding issues, from the other Greater Norwich Growth Board Partners. He was disappointed that these issues had not yet been resolved.

During discussion, members referred to the Carrow Bridge to Deal Ground Riverside Path project, suggesting that more clarity was required regarding the development, as currently it would create a path to “nowhere”. With regard to the Long Stratton bypass, the Chairman stressed that this road was a vital link and principal access for both Norfolk and Suffolk, and it was important that the Council was involved with pre-application discussions and the design of the road. Referring to the Hempnall crossroads improvements, Cllr A Thomas reassured members that the County Council considered a roundabout to be the only adequate way forward.
The Decision

RESOLVED: TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL:

1. a) Agrees, subject to the satisfactory clarification from the other Greater Norwich Growth Board partners with regard to the matter of maintenance costs and other outstanding issues, the Joint Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan (Appendix 1 of the report) in general, and the 2017/18 projects proposed for South Norfolk in particular, for consideration by the May 2017 meeting of the Greater Norwich Growth Board, with the first year of the Infrastructure Investment Plan to be considered as the Annual Growth Programme for 2017/18;

   b) Agrees that final approval of the Joint Five-Year Infrastructure Plan be delegated to the Director of Growth and Localism, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

2. Notes and agrees with the resolution of the Greater Norwich Growth Board on 23rd March 2017 (outlined at Appendix 4 of the report) to not include any allowance for maintenance costs in the 2017/18 Annual Growth Programme, but that a sum for maintenance for future years will be necessary; and

3. Agrees to pool CIL payments for 2017/18 and future years beyond this to help ensure the delivery of the Greater Norwich Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan.

The Reasons for the Decision
To ensure that the Infrastructure Investment Plan is fair, and that priorities set are in line with the planned level and distribution of growth.

Other Options Considered
None
2547 A47 IMPROVEMENTS – HIGHWAYS ENGLAND CONSULTATION SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL RESPONSE

The Subject of the Decision

Members considered the report of the Planning Policy Manager, which presented Cabinet with the proposed South Norfolk Council response to the A47 Route Options – Highways England consultation.

The Planning Policy Manager presented his report, explaining that out of the seven proposed improvement schemes, two lay (entirely or partly) within the District; the proposed Thickthorn junction improvements, and the North Tuddenham – Easton dualling. He briefly outlined the options on which the Council had been consulted, and the key areas of the Council’s proposed response.

Referring to the proposed improvements at the Thickthorn junction, Cllr N Legg, local member for Ketteringham, explained that there were some concerns with regard to plans to reinstate Cantley Lane, with an underpass. This lane was single track, with very few passing places, and was frequently used by heavy vehicles. He believed that a different proposal, which would involve an underpass under the A11 at Station Road, was a feasible alternative option, and would reduce the impact on surrounding structures and create a better road access to businesses in Ketteringham. He explained that this proposal had been submitted to Highways England for consideration.

Members expressed some support for this alternative proposal, and Cllr K Mason Billig explained that changes at the Ketteringham Depot, would result in more heavy vehicles using the access, which had already proved to be a challenge at certain times. She was supportive of any proposals which would alleviate this problem.

Cllr M Dewsbury, local member for Easton, was grateful that officers had suggested that the North Tuddenham – Easton dualling should be a priority scheme, and she welcomed the proposed suggestion that the Easton roundabout could be moved further west. She explained that for residents in Easton, options 1 or 3 were preferable, with access to the village from the Northern side. She made reference to the Easton Food Hub proposals and the need to minimise traffic impacts on the village, and also the large area of land proposed for residential development, and the need to ensure access to this land from the Easton junction.
During discussion, Cllr T Lewis suggested that there was a good argument for ensuring that these works were completed together, to avoid prolonged disruption, and he wondered whether the availability of labour was really an issue. The Chairman stressed the need to ensure that the Easton junction allowed for the proposed Food Hub to connect directly to the A47, and to allow for a future connection to the “Western Link”, to the Northern Distributor Route (NDR), at Easton.

The Decision

RESOLVED: To:

a) Agree the South Norfolk Council response to the A47 Route Options – Highways England consultation, with the Council being strongly supportive of all seven A47 improvement schemes proposed, subject to:
   • minor textual amendments;
   • more emphasis given to ensure the proposed western link to the NDR at Easton, and;
   • an indication of support for the proposed alternative scheme for the Thickthorn junction;

b) Delegate authority to the Director of Growth and Localism, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for External Affairs, to agree any minor changes to the response prior to it being sent to Highways England.

The Reasons for the Decision
To ensure that Highways England considers all options, and is aware of the views of South Norfolk Council.

Other Options Considered
To agree the proposed response with no amendments.

2548 CABINET CORE AGENDA

Member noted the latest version of the Cabinet Core Agenda.
EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was

RESOLVED: To exclude the public and press from the meeting under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended)

LONG STRATTON LEISURE CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT OPTIONS

Members considered the exempt report of the Head of Leisure Services, which provided Cabinet with information on the potential options for redevelopment of Long Stratton Leisure Centre.

Cllr C Hudson referred members to the success of the refurbishment of the Wymondham Leisure Centre, where membership had doubled and an operational profit was now being made. He stressed the need to look for a route at the Long Stratton site, which would attract new users, and offer a beneficial and sustainable revenue position.

The Head of Leisure presented the options for redevelopment to members.

During debate, local member Cllr K Worsley thanked officers for their work on the project. Cllr A Thomas, also commended the report to members, and suggested that the swimming pool at the Long Stratton High School, required future consideration.

RESOLVED: To Approve:

1. The delivery of the Enhanced option for Long Stratton Leisure Centre as outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report.

2. The option of a phased approach to the refurbishment, as outlined in paragraph 6.6 of the report, allowing for the centre to remain operational throughout the build period.

3. The procurement route for the refurbishment of Long Stratton Leisure Centre as outlined in paragraph 8.1 of the report.
The Reasons for the Decision

To maximise income for the Council, whilst delivering on its priority to enhance the health and well-being of residents.

Other Options Considered

As outlined in the report

(The meeting concluded at 11.06 am)

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Chairman