CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 31 March 2014 at 9.00 am.

Members Present:

Cabinet: Councillors J Fuller (Chairman) D Bills, Y Bendle, K Kiddie and G Wheatley

Apologies: Councillor M Wilby

Non-Appointed: Councillors Dale, Edney, Foulger, Gray, Hornby, Legg, Lewis, Mooney, Neal, Palmer, Riches, R Savage and Walden

Officers in Attendance: The Chief Executive (S Dinneen), the Deputy Chief Executive (A Radford), the Director of Environment and Housing (A Jarvis), the Director of Growth and Localism (T Horspole), the Head of Asset Management (R Garfoot), the Planning Policy Manager (A Nicholls), the Housing and Public Health Manager (M Swann), and the National Management Trainee (H Ralph).

Also in Attendance: The press and one member of the public.

2266 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr T Palmer declared an “other” interest in the matter referred to below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Minute No.</th>
<th>Nature of Interest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cllr T Palmer</td>
<td>2272</td>
<td>Cllr Palmer is a Member of Diss Town Council</td>
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2267 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES DOCUMENT: SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENT FOR EXAMINATION

The subject of the decision

Members considered the report of the Planning Policy Manager, which sought Cabinet and Council’s approval to submit the Pre-Submission Development Management Policies Document and supporting documents to the Planning Inspectorate for formal examination during mid-April 2014.

The Chairman reminded members of the background to the report, stressing the document’s importance as part of the Local Plan in assisting the Council to carry out its development management responsibilities. He explained that alongside the Joint Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework, the document contained appropriate policies to reflect the nature of South Norfolk, and he gave special mention to the landscape protection zone, the protection of strategic gaps between settlements, and cultural assets within the District.

The Planning Policy Manager explained that during the consultation, 140 representations had been received, of which 105 were objections on the “tests of soundness”. He did not consider any of the representations to be significant enough to delay submission of the document. However, he stressed that it was inevitable that there would be some changes made during the examination process and he referred members to the recommendations which proposed that the Director of Growth and Localism be authorised to grant the Inspector the power to formally request any necessary main modifications to ensure “soundness” of the document.

The Decision

RESOLVED: TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL:


2. Authorises the Director of Growth and Localism to grant the Inspector the power to formally request that he/she makes any necessary main modifications under Section 20 (7C) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act that he/she judges necessary to make the Development Management Policies Document ‘sound’; and

3. Grants the Director of Growth and Localism delegated powers to propose and/or agree appropriate amendments/modifications to the Development Management Policies Document (in consultation with the Group Leaders) during the Examination stage.
The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure robust Development Management Policies which are distinctive to the South Norfolk area.

Other Options Considered

- Not to progress the document through to adoption
- Not to grant the Inspector the power to make modifications during the examination process
- Not to grant delegated powers to the Director of Growth and Localism, to propose or agree modifications during the Examination process.

The Subject of the Decision

Members considered the report of the Planning Policy Manager, which sought Cabinet and Council’s agreement to formally submit the Site Specific Allocations and Policies Document and supporting information, for independent examination, in mid-April 2014.

The Chairman outlined the background of the report, explaining that from 1500 sites originally proposed, only 200 remained. There had been a series of consultations and members had been very involved in the process throughout. He was satisfied that the Council’s approach in identifying smaller site allocations, as opposed to fewer larger ones, was correct, providing residents with more choice, and smaller developers opportunities to build. Referring to the “floating 1800”, he was content that the spread of development was the right path to follow.

The Planning Policy Manager explained that out of 331 representations received, 273 were objections to the soundness and/or legal conformity of the document. Officers did not consider any of the objections to be significant enough to necessitate a delay in submission of the document. As with the Development Management Policies Document, he stressed the need to sanction the Director of Growth and Localism to authorise the Inspector the power to formally request any necessary main modifications to ensure “soundness” of the document.

In response to queries, the Planning Policy Manager explained that the number of new dwellings allocated in the document, exceeded the minimum figure set out in Policy 4 of the Joint Core Strategy by approximately 3 - 400. He envisaged the Examination to take place towards the end of June, or early July.
The Decision

RESOLVED:

TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL:

1. Agrees the formal submission of the Site Specific Allocations and Policies Document (and supporting/background information) in mid-April 2014 for independent examination in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012;

2. Authorises the Director of Growth and Localism to grant the Inspector the power to formally request that he/she makes any necessary main modifications under Section 20 (7C) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act that he/she judges necessary to make the Site Specific Allocations and Policies Document ‘sound’; and

3. Grants the Director of Growth and Localism delegated powers to propose and/or agree appropriate amendments/modifications to the Site Allocations Document (in consultation with the Group Leaders) during the Examination stage.

The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure planned and co-ordinated development, allowing residents to be involved in shaping their communities

Other Options Considered

- Not to progress to adoption
- Not to grant the Inspector the power to make modifications
- Not to grant delegated powers to the Director of Growth and Localism, to propose or agree modifications during the Examination process.

2270 SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN: WYMONDHAM AREA ACTION PLAN: SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENT FOR EXAMINATION

The subject of the decision

Members considered the report of the Planning Policy Manager, which sought Cabinet and Council approval to formally submit the Wymondham Area Action Plan, and supporting information, for independent examination, in mid-April 2014.

The Chairman began by referring to the capacity constraints of Wymondham High Academy and the need to limit growth in the town to the minimum figure of 2,200, allocated in the Joint Core Strategy. The Area Action Plan took a holistic approach in assessing how this development could be distributed, whilst improving the connectivity of the town and taking note of a number of constraints and
complications, including the need to protect strategic gaps and historic character of the town.

The Chairman was satisfied that the allocations put forward resulted in a long term effective and deliverable plan, which appropriately addressed the requirements of the Joint Core Strategy, within the constraints of national policy. He sympathised with the view that smaller developments were more appropriate in the town and that the allocations should be spread across more sites, but he explained that planning permissions for large developments, already granted under the “five year land supply”, had complicated the issue further.

The Planning Policy Manager reminded members that the growth in the town was not just about new housing, but also new sites for employment, leisure and amenity use. The Area Action Plan looked at the most appropriate ways of integrating new growth in to the existing town. Referring to the 63 objections on legal and/or soundness grounds, he explained that officers did not consider them to be significant enough to necessitate any changes to the document prior to submission.

During discussion, Cllr L Dale, as the Council’s representative and Vice-Chairman on the Norfolk Rail Policy Group, referred to the lack of disabled access on the South bound platform of Wymondham Railway station, and suggested that officers should raise this issue with those concerned. The Director of Growth and Localism agreed that officers could take this forward.

The Director of Growth and Localism thanked officers, members and residents for their input in to the emerging Local Plan. It had, he admitted, been stressful at times, but the end was in sight. Cabinet endorsed these comments, thanking in particular the Planning Policy Team for their contributions.

The Decision

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<tr>
<th>RESOLVED:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Agrees the formal submission of the Wymondham Area Action Plan (and supporting/background information) in mid-April 2014 for independent examination in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012;</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Authorises the Director of Growth and Localism to grant the Inspector the power to formally request that he/she makes any necessary main modifications under Section 20 (7C) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act that he/she judges necessary to make the Wymondham Area Action Plan ‘sound’; and</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Grant the Director of Growth and Localism delegated powers to propose and/or agree appropriate amendments/modifications to the Wymondham Area Action Plan (in consultation with the Group Leaders) during the Examination stage.</td>
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The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure planned and co-ordinated future development in Wymondham, allowing residents to be involved in shaping communities.

Other Options Considered

- Not to progress to adoption
- Not to grant the Inspector the power to make modifications
- Not to grant delegated powers to the Director of Growth and Localism, to propose or agree modifications during the Examination process.

2271 NEW ANGLIA LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP’S STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN

The subject of the decision

Members considered the report of the Director of Growth and Localism which gave an overview and update on the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership’s Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).

The Chairman highlighted South Norfolk Council’s commitment to deliver economic growth for local residents and businesses along with the wider Norfolk and New Anglia economies, supporting key local assets and sectors with the potential to deliver significant growth to grow and thrive. He advised members that South Norfolk had been successful in receiving a number of grants to deliver economic growth, and was fully participating in Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

The Director of Growth and Localism reiterated the comments of the Chairman adding that the SEP set out the economic growth priorities that would deliver a step change in growth in New Anglia. He was pleased to note that the vision complimented the Council’s work with City Deals and set a framework for future economic growth.

Cabinet thanked officers for their work and was pleased to note the progress of the Plan which it considered to be an important driver of the economy and a useful tool to give district councils the opportunity to identify and support their own local priorities and areas through which to deliver local economic growth.

The Decision

RESOLVED:

To:

1. Note the progress on development of the New Anglia Strategic Economic Plan and Norfolk Growth Prospectus;

2. Note and endorse the strategic direction of NALEP’s Strategic Economic plan;
3. Note and endorse the strategic direction of the Norfolk Growth Prospectus; and
4. Approve the refresh of the South Norfolk Council Economic Strategy in Quarter 2 2014/15 once the final Growth Prospectus and SEP have been agreed.

The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that economic development and growth in South Norfolk are central to the key priorities set out in the Strategy.

Other Options Considered

None

2272 SNC HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2014-17

The subject of the decision

Cabinet considered a report which asked members to approve work on the key aspects being developed to progress South Norfolk Council’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

After providing members with a verbal update on the work already undertaken and the plans being developed around the Strategy including the provision of a collaboration hub at Long Stratton and a delivery hub in Diss, Cllr Y Bendle commended the report to Cabinet. The Housing and Public Health Manager summarised the salient points contained in the report, including Early Help and the provision of help with independent living, and stressed that the document identified and prioritised South Norfolk Council’s positioning in terms of delivery and policy.

In response to a concern raised by a member regarding the possible duplication of work around the Diss hub already being undertaken by the Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB), officers reassured Cabinet that they would be working closely with other partnerships, including the CAB, to ensure that duplication would be avoided and that better outcomes could be achieved.

The Chairman was pleased to note the work of the Council, stressing that it was not just the Health Service involved in this area of work. He added that part of the report, which indicated South Norfolk Council’s possible role in tackling health issues, should be emphasised when the Strategy was published.

The Decision

| RESOLVED: |
| To: |
| 1. Approve the direction of travel described in the report on the health and wellbeing agenda, and authorise officers to pursue the early projects identified in the report; and |
2. Approve the proposed SNC Health and Wellbeing Strategy attached as Appendix A to the report and the new approach to working with partners and customers as proposed.

The Reasons for the Decision

To provide SNC with a vision and opportunity to secure strong benefits for South Norfolk residents and to instigate work to deliver the strategic outcomes whilst supporting new business opportunities and SNC’s corporate priorities.

Other Options Considered

- To deliver a reactive approach to the Health and Well Being agenda.

2273 ASSET MANAGEMENT

The subject of the decision

Cabinet considered the Asset Management Plan and Programme 2011/14 and the Tree Management Strategy which had been re-written to reflect changes in legislation and directorate planning.

Cllr Wheatley commended the Plan to Cabinet, advising members that an informal workshop with the Asset Management Group (AMG) and the Finance, Resources, Audit and Governance Committee earlier in the year to develop the documents had provided some useful feedback.

The Head of Asset Management gave a brief overview of the key areas of the Asset Management Plan and the Tree Management Strategy and the Chairman agreed that the documents were simpler and more focussed. Cllr Fuller added that investment properties were an increasing part of the Council’s focus, drawing members’ attention to figures contained in the Plan showing the rate of return on SNC’s investment assets and explaining that this income was both helping to keep council tax low and improving the economy.

It was noted and agreed that the definition of Capital Appreciation contained under the heading of Commercial Return in the Asset Management Plan and Programme be altered to include the words ‘when crystallised’.

The Chief Executive thanked the Head of Asset Management for her work.

The Decision

RESOLVED: To approve the draft Asset Management Plan 2014/17 and the Tree Management Strategy 2014 subject to minor changes.
The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure a corporate, strategic and forward thinking approach to asset management was adopted.

Other Options Considered

- To continue with the existing strategy.

2274 CABINET CORE AGENDA

Members noted the latest version of the Cabinet Core Agenda. The Deputy Chief Executive advised Cabinet that an item on Building Control would be added to the agenda for May 2014.

2275 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting 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 Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended).

2276 Land at Chestnut Road, Pulham St Mary

The subject of the decision

The Head of Asset Management provided Cabinet with a brief summary of her exempt report regarding the land at Chestnut Road, Pulham St Mary. After general discussion, members were in agreement with the proposals contained in the report.

The Decision

RESOLVED: To approve the proposals as detailed in the report.

The Reasons for the Decision

To maximise the value of the site.

Other Options Considered

As detailed in the report
(The meeting concluded at 10.15 am)

Chairman