

PLANNING COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Thursday 16th May 2019

Time: 10.00am – 10.23am

Place: Kreis Viersen, Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillors A Bradnam (substituting for Councillor B Ashwood), D Connor (Chairman), I Gardener (Vice-Chairman), L Harford, P Hudson, B Hunt, S Kindersley and J Whitehead.

Officers: Carolyn Beckwith – LGSS Law Ltd, Emma Fitch – Joint Interim Assistant Director, Environment and Commercial, Deborah Jeakins – Principal Enforcement and Monitoring Officer, Jack Millar, Planning Officer, Michelle Rowe – Democratic Services Manager and Jane Stanley – Interim Business Manager, County Planning Minerals and Waste

81. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN/WOMAN

The Committee noted that the Council had appointed Councillor Connor as the Chairman for the municipal year 2019-20.

82. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN/WOMAN

The Committee noted that the Council had appointed Councillor Gardener as the Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2019-20.

83. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ashwood.

Councillor Kindersley declared a non-statutory disclosable interest under the Code of Conduct in Minute No.87, as a member of the Cam Academy Trust.

84. MINUTES – 21ST FEBRUARY 2019

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 21st February 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

85. REVIEW OF THE LOCAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VALIDATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered a report detailing proposed revisions to the Local Validation List (LVL). Members were reminded of the background relating to the need to publish an up to date LVL. Attention was drawn to the review process carried out in early 2019, which had included a six week consultation process with a number of consultees. Members noted the consultation responses and responses provided by officers. The Committee was reminded that the updated Local Plans for

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council had been adopted in 2018 (September and October respectively). In considering the revised LVL checklist and Guidance Notes, Members were informed that the requirements for applications had been updated to take account of recently adopted planning policy. Examples provided included a Low Emission Strategy Statement covering parking provision and electrical charging points within South Cambridgeshire; with other alterations shown in red in the attached appendices. Officers also clarified that power was covered in the sustainable construction item, and water and sewage was covered in the surface water drainage strategy item within the LVL, the latter of which would also be considered in relation to any planning application through consultation with the Flood and Water Team as the Lead Local Flood Authority.

The Joint Interim Assistant Director, Environment and Commercial also reported that Huntingdonshire District Council had approved the adoption of its updated Local Plan to 2036 at their Full Council the previous evening, so the adoption of their Local Plan would also need to be taken into account when updating the policies and links in the LVL guidance.

One Member queried whether the LVL would need to be reviewed again following expected Government changes to waste regulations. It was noted that officers would need to consider the timescales and review when the Waste Local Plan was updated. It was important to bear in mind that the LVL checklist was a living document, which was why the Committee was being asked to authorise the Joint Interim Assistant Director, Environment and Commercial to update links and references.

A Member highlighted the need to maximise the use of public transport. It was therefore proposed with the agreement of the Committee to delete “improve” at the top of page 47 and replace it with “maximise”, and to request that “maximise use of public transport” be included at the bottom of page 49. The Joint Interim Assistant Director, Environment and Commercial reported that the document contained the minimum required and that there should not be a problem changing the wording. It was noted that applicants would need to demonstrate that they had considered it. It was also acknowledged that officers had widened the Travel Plan requirement to other development rather than just for school proposals.

The same Member queried whether particular care could be taken in relation to the section on air quality regarding applications for schools near roads. The Joint Interim Assistant Director, Environment and Commercial reported that it would not be appropriate to add specific reference to school sites in the text, particularly as many sites were brought forward through the masterplan on key junctions, so whilst they could create a building barrier by having the frontage on the road and the playground at the back, the location was often dictated. Furthermore, in response, it was queried whether all buildings accommodating vulnerable people, and not just schools, should have the same care. Officers confirmed that the LVL needed to be reasonable and set the minimum requirements, but this did not restrict further information being obtained on a case-by-case basis. In relation to the suggested reference to school sites, the Interim Business Manager, County Planning Minerals and Waste reported that the consequence of adding this wording would mean that every school application would need to provide a technical air quality assessment.

She explained that it was important to provide a balance, which could be achieved by the existing discretion available.

Members were informed that the Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee scrutinised applications for new schools and had recently turned an application down because the school was too close to the A14.

The Local Member for Gamlingay passed on the thanks of the Parish Council regarding the officer response acknowledging the need to consider adopted neighbourhood plans.

A Member commented that there was no mention of carbon footprint on pages 26 and 27. In response it was noted that on page 28 it was covered by Sustainable Design and Construction. The Interim Business Manager, County Planning Minerals and Waste confirmed that it was included within the policies of all the District Councils; the City Council had a checklist for applicants to complete. It was resolved unanimously to:

approve the County Council's LVL and Guidance Notes (May 2019) attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to the report for use and publication on the Council's website and that the Joint Interim Assistant Director, Environment and Commercial be authorised to enable officers to update links and references to documents within the LVL Guidance Notes (JUNE 2019), which become outdated and/or be superseded during the period that the 2019 list is in use.

86. ENFORCEMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received the Enforcement Update report, which covered the work of the team from 1 December 2018 to 30 April 2019. Attention was drawn to paragraphs 7 to 14 of the report which provided updates on a number of key ongoing Enforcement Investigations. It was noted that the relevant Local Member and Parish Councils had been notified. Attention was drawn to Saxon Pit, Peterborough Road, Whittlesey where the Environment Agency had withdrawn its own Enforcement Notice on its own legal advice. Additional information was needed and officers from County Planning would continue to work closely with the Agency.

Members thanked officers for the report and acknowledged the amount of background work which went into it.

It was resolved unanimously to note the contents of the report

87. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS MADE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

The Committee considered a summary of decisions made under delegated powers.

It was resolved unanimously to note report.

Chairman