

Subject to approval at the next Subcommittee meeting

LOCAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

18 December 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Present : Councillors Haymes (Chairman), Bower (Vice-Chairman), Brooks, Chapman, Charles, Mrs Hall, Mrs Maconachie and Nash.

Councillor Maconachie was also present at the meeting.

18. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Brown and Mrs Goad.

19. Declarations of Interest

The Monitoring Officer has advised Members of interim arrangements to follow when making declarations of interest. They have been advised that for the reasons explained below, they should make their declarations on the same basis as the former Code of Conduct using the descriptions of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Reasons

- The Council has adopted the government's example for a new local code of conduct, but new policies and procedures relating to the new local code are yet to be considered and adopted.
- Members have not yet been trained on the provisions of the new local code of conduct.
- The definition of Pecuniary Interests is narrower than the definition of Prejudicial Interests so, by declaring a matter as a Prejudicial Interest, that will cover the requirement to declare a Pecuniary Interest in the same matter.

There were no declarations of interest made.

20. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2014 were approved by the Subcommittee and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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21. Representations Guidance Note

As the January Local Plan Subcommittee had been cancelled and guidance matters had been raised in a representation, the Chairman agreed that this item could be dealt with as a matter of urgency to update the Committee and clarify the position.

The Head of Planning Policy & Conservation advised the Committee that the Representation Guidance Note produced to aid the submission of representations noted that, after the consultation period had ended, the Authority would summarise the main issues and submit that summary to the Secretary of State alongside the Local Plan and supporting evidence. It also stated that if any representations included matters which suggested changes to the Local Plan, the Authority would consider the appropriate way to proceed before the Local Plan was submitted.

The Committee was further advised that the summary would be dealt with as per paragraph 1.3 of the 'Statement of Consultation' (dated October 2014). i.e. an update to this document which would be submitted to the Secretary of State/Planning Inspectorate. It was confirmed that the consultation had not presented any 'showstoppers' that would prevent the Council submitting the Plan to the Secretary of State/Planning Inspectorate for Examination. Accordingly, and in line with the resolution from the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10 September 2014, the Council would submit the Plan, its associated documents and the responses from the consultation to the Planning Inspectorate in order that an Examination in Public of the Plan could be held'.

22. Consultation from Neighbouring Authorities and Network Rail and Proposed Responses

The Chairman welcomed Katherine Banks to the meeting as the recently appointed Principal Planning Officer in the Planning Policy team.

The Principal Planning Officer presented this report which summarised the contents of three consultations that had been received since the last meeting in respect of:-

- Brighton and Hove City Plan;
- Adur Proposed Submission Local Plan;
- Mid Sussex District Council's District Plan consultation draft; and
- Network Rail's Draft London and South East Route Sussex Area Route Study consultations

Following consideration, the Committee agreed the responses to the Local Authority consultations.

With respect to Network Rail, the Principal Planning Officer advised that West Sussex County Council had prepared a response for the whole of

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the County and this Council had submitted comments to the County Council based on matters emanating from the Leisure, Tourism & Infrastructure Working Group, as attached to the report. However, it was felt that the Council should also respond directly to Network Rail with more detailed comments and this additional response was attached for Members' comment.

In discussing the matter, comment was made that there were important omissions from the Network Rail document, with a principal one being the issue of the Arundel Chord as that was in the Coast to Capital Strategic Economic Plan; and the Coastal West Sussex strategic documents. Concern was raised that the Network Rail business plan had compared journey times between Brighton and Horsham and come to the conclusion that if the Three Bridges interchange was used the journey time would be 20 minutes shorter than if the Arundel Chord was used! No other routes had been looked at and it was felt the study was seriously flawed. The Arundel Chord was a priority for the Council and, as such, the response should be quite vigorous in reinforcing that point.

Members reiterated that the journey times to London from Bognor Regis were too long and were not conducive to economic growth. In addition, it was unacceptable that passengers quite often had to stand for large parts of their journey and steps must be taken to address that.

A request was made that a response should be included around the investment that Network Rail was making in its stations to improve quality.

Further debate centred around level crossings and the impact they had on road journey times. There were 41 level crossings between Hove and Havant and, whilst it was acknowledged that they could not all be closed, it was important to continue discussions with Network Rail to try to address the problems associated with the crossings

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure advised that there was a separate consultation being undertaken on the Southern Rail timetable and he urged Members to go to the relevant website and submit their own observations.

The Principal Planning Officer stated that she would strengthen the Council's response in the light of Members' comments.

The Subcommittee

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL - That

(1) the officer responses to the various consultations set out in the report be agreed, subject to additional comments being incorporated in respect of the Network Rail consultation; AND

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(2) any minor changes to be agreed by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure and the Assistant Director Planning & Economic Regeneration.

23. VOTE OF THANKS

On behalf of the Subcommittee, the Chairman extended thanks to Mr Simon Meecham, Head of Planning Policy & Conservation, for all his help and assistance during his time at Arun as he was leaving the Authority in the New Year for pastures new. He wished him well for the future.

The Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure also paid tribute to Mr Meecham, as did the Leader of the Labour Group and the Leader of the Independent Group. They all agreed it would be a sad loss to the Council.

24. SEASONS GREETINGS

The Chairman wished Members and officers the compliments of the season.

(The meeting concluded at 6.40 pm)