

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting - 10 September 2015

Present: Mr Naylor (Chairman)
Mrs Gibbs and Mr Vincent

Also Present:

Apologies for absence: Mr D Dhillon, Mrs Lowen-Cooper and Mr Samson

15. MINUTES

The minutes of the PAG held on 11 June 2015 were agreed.

16. REPORT FROM MEMBERS

The Portfolio Holder informed the meeting that the Conference he had attended, organised by the Royal Town Planning Institute on a variety of issues including Planning Policy, Permitted Development and Affordable Housing had been very useful and educational.

17. CURRENT ISSUES

1. Khalsa School

The Head of Sustainable Development advised the PAG that as the deadline of 8 September for receiving a decision on the Khalsa School appeal had passed he had written to the Secretary of State for a revised timetable. He had also written to, and received a reply from, the Department for Education on what would happen in the event of the Secretary of State dismissing the appeal.

2. Affordable Housing

The Head of Sustainable Development informed the PAG that the legal challenge launched by Reading Borough Council and West Berkshire County against the changes made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to limit the use of Section 106 monies to provide affordable housing had been successful. The government was considering its response and in the meantime the Council's policy on affordable housing remained unchanged.

18. REPORTS LIKELY TO LEAD TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER MAKING A DECISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

None

19. REPORTS LIKELY TO LEAD TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET

20. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME REVIEW

Following the recent Government announced objective for speeding up plan-making, the PAG considered a report setting out options and a recommended

way forward to produce a new Local Plan by early 2017 through a review of the Council's approved Local Development Scheme.

The report, after explaining the government's objectives including the intention to prepare a national league table for local plan making, set out three options for responding to these objectives as follows:

- To continue on the current Local Development Scheme timetable;
- To progress a South Bucks Local Plan to a shorter timetable
- To produce a joint local plan with Chiltern District Council

The report went on to identify reasons for pursuing option 3 including the following:

- A joint plan would make more efficient use of available staff resources and remove duplication of effort; and
- In preparing its own local plan the Council would be grouped together with the Berkshire Unitary Authorities within a Housing Market Authority (HMA) and Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA); by undertaking a joint plan it was anticipated that a joint local plan would form part of a Buckinghamshire HMA and FEMA.

The report went on to explain in paragraph 3.4 that pursuing option 3 was dependent on a number of issues including the need for additional resources and additional meetings of the PAGs and or Cabinets at both authorities.

Having considered the advice of the PAG which supported option 3 the Portfolio Holder

A. **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to CABINET that Council be recommended to

1. Subject to agreement by Chiltern District Council, South Bucks District Council agrees to the preparation of a joint Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan (2014 – 2036) under Section 28 of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and for the preparation of a joint Chiltern and South Bucks Local Development Scheme to this effect.
2. Subject to approval of Recommendation 1 above and agreement by Chiltern District Council, that Council approves a joint Chiltern and South Bucks Local Development Scheme timetable such that the timetable comprises the following:
 - a) public consultation on a joint Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 commencing in January/February 2016 incorporating an 'Issues and Options' consultation.
 - b) a preferred options consultation commencing in October/November 2016.
 - c) pre-submission consultation on the Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 commencing in March/April 2017.

- d) submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 22 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 in September 2017.
 - e) anticipated examination in December 2017
 - f) anticipated adoption in June 2018
 - g) on-going Duty to Co-operate
 - h) review the need for a combined Chiltern and South Bucks community infrastructure levy at the most relevant point between September 2016 and July 2017.
3. Agree the establishment of a Joint Chiltern and South Bucks Council Local Plan Member Reference Group with:-
- a) The Group to consist of equal membership from the two councils, namely respective cabinet members with responsibility for planning plus up to five other members nominated by each council. Other than for the cabinet members there will be no substitutes and the cabinet members will be free to nominate a substitute member as and when necessary.
 - b) Meetings will not be open to the public and agendas, reports, documents and any notes of the meeting will be kept confidential amongst the two councils.
 - c) Other members of the councils will be able to attend the meetings and will be able to contribute to the meeting with the agreement of the Chairman.
 - d) The Group to have no decision making powers but to provide advice and a steer on the preparation of planning policy matters. Meetings will be arranged as required in order to progress the joint Local Plan to the Local Development Scheme Timetable, associated matters and other Local Plan related matters after the Local Plan has been adopted with due notice being given.
 - e) To be quorate, the meeting will require at least two appointed members from each Council to be present.
 - f) The terms of reference for the Group to be agreed at the first Group meeting.
 - g) Meetings as far as practicable will generally alternate between Chiltern and South Bucks offices. Both councils to elect a Chairman at the first meeting, with the chairmanship of meetings alternating between the two Councils (i.e. one chairing one meeting and the next chairing the next meeting).

4. That Council agree the nominations for the South Bucks member places on the Group, with those members to remain in place unless otherwise determined by Council.

AND

B. AGREED to RECOMMEND to Cabinet

That, subject to recommendations 1 and 2 above being agreed by Council and Chiltern District Council:-

5. Authority be delegated to the Head of Sustainable Development to update the supporting Local Development Scheme document as a new joint councils Local Development Scheme. In exercising this delegation the Head of Sustainable Development will consult with and take into account the views of the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development and the Chiltern District Council Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development.
6. notification of the revised Local Development Scheme Timetable be sent as soon as practicable to all Duty to Co-operate organisations, all other Berkshire councils, local enterprise partnerships for Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, the Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire Natural Environmental Partnership and groups, organisations and individuals on the Council's Planning Consultation Database.
7. all of the public consultations on a joint emerging Local Plan to be carried out so as to meet the minimum requirements of both the South Bucks District Council and Chiltern District Council statements of community involvement.
8. the Joint Committee be requested to consider as a matter of urgency agreeing to the Planning Policy Team forming a shared service with Chiltern District Councils' Planning Policy Team, to be located at one of the authorities offices, either at Amersham or Denham.
9. the Personnel Committee be requested to consider as a matter of urgency the staff resource implications for speeding up local plan making to meet the Government objectives.
10. the funding of the additional expenditure be met from the Council's LDF reserve.

21. **REPORTS FOR NOTING**

None.

The meeting terminated at 6.33 pm