

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (SBDC)

Meeting - 7 September 2017

Present: N Naylor (Chairman)
J Jordan

Apologies for absence: G Hollis, M Lewis and G Sandy

68. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2017 were confirmed.

69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

70. REPORT FROM MEMBERS

There were no updates from Members.

71. CURRENT ISSUES

To be discussed in the following minutes.

72. REVISED BUILDING CONTROL CHARGES

The PAG received a report which set out proposals to revise Building Control Charges by simplifying the scheme and increasing some of the charges. It was explained to the meeting that the fee structure was designed to cover the costs of the service but any extra income would be invested into the service. It was intended to save costs by reducing the need to issue invoices and process cheques. Recent investments in the service included the use of I pads and a Building Control App should result in a reduction in the use of paper. The service was also developing partners across district boundaries to keep a consistent flow of work and develop the business.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **RESOLVED** that the revised Building Control Charges Scheme attached at Appendix 1 be approved.

73. BROWNFIELD LAND REGISTER

The PAG received a report that advised members on new statutory requirements for the Council to prepare and publish a Brownfield Land Register for South Bucks District and which sought agreement from the Portfolio Holder to carry out consultation on a draft Register. The PAG noted that further authority would be sought from Cabinet and Full Council to approve the final Register.

There was a requirement for the Register to be published by 31 December 2017. It was noted that much of this information was already in the public domain as many sites were already included in the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment. It was asked in what format it would be published and it was advised that this was also prescribed by government and would be in the form of an Excel spreadsheet on the website, with hard copies in both Council's Receptions.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **RESOLVED** that the proposed consultation on a draft Brownfield Land Register for South Bucks District be approved.

And further

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that

- 1) Cabinet delegates publication of the Register and any future updates to the Head of Sustainable Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder;
- 2) Cabinet recommends to Full Council that the decision to enter land in Part 2 of the Register is delegated to the Planning Committee and dealt with under the Scheme of Officer Delegations in the same way as planning applications; and
- 3) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to amend the Council's Constitution to reflect the new Brownfield Land Register functions and associated delegations.

74. HS2 UPDATE REPORT AND APPOINTMENT OF LANDSCAPE CONSULTANTS

There was an update of the progress on the project to date and the forward planning for the project. It was noted that whilst the Act of Parliament granted deemed planning permission for the HS2 project, there were still certain approvals that had to be secured from the planning authorities under Schedule 17 of the Act. Buckingham County Council was to lead the local Traffic Liaison Group, responsible for traffic management schemes. The County Council were also dealing with all matters related to waste and excavated material.

The Main Works Contractors (MWC) had been appointed in July 2017 and were designing the railway scheme over the next 18 months and were responsible for obtaining the necessary Schedule 17 approvals from the local planning authorities. The statutory time obligations and lack of local expertise had led to a recommendation that the Council commission Land Use Consultants (LUC) to provide landscape advice on Schedule 17 matters. LUC has acted as landscape consultant previously for the Bucks authorities in the HS2 project and was currently working with

the Chilterns AONB Group, and therefore has considerable knowledge and experience of the project and the Buckinghamshire area.

Under the Service Level Agreement (SLA), HS2 Ltd had agreed to fund the work of consultants but has capped its rate of pay as part of its cost limitations. LUC has agreed to undertake the work within the fees rates offered by HS2 and therefore there is unlikely to be any cost to the Council. The work is likely to continue for a period of 6 years and involve about 150 applications across both authorities. An exemption to the usual contract procedure rules had therefore been requested from the Management Team, due to the urgency, specialist knowledge requirement and historical involvement of LUC.

The meeting also discussed the Colne Valley Regional Park Panel (CVRPP). It was noted that SBDC had been a member since the group was created to mitigate the effects of the HS2 development and was currently the commissioning authority for the Additional Mitigation Projects Plan phase which would be completed by March 2018. Agreement was sought from this Policy Advisory Group to continue to act as commissioning authority on the Additional Mitigation Projects should the panel request the Council to do so to ensure that the work is carried out properly throughout the construction phase. It was agreed that SBDC were best placed to assume this role.

RESOLVED

That the current position be noted and:

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet

1. To approve the appointment of Land Use Consultants to provide landscape advice on Schedule 17 applications and other related HS2 matters for the duration of the planning aspect of the construction phase and;
2. To approve Delegated Authority to the Council to act as the commissioning authority for any additional Projects from the Colne Valley Regional Park Panel's work to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Head of Legal Services.

75. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting terminated at 6.18 pm

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