

DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

14 February 2012

4.30 - 5.25 pm

Present: Councillors Nimmo-Smith (Chair), Saunders (Vice-Chair), Herbert and Marchant-Daisley

Executive Councillor for Planning and Sustainable Transport: Councillor Ward

Officers: Simon Bunn (Sustainable Drainage Engineer), Emma Davies (Senior Sustainability Officer), Patsy Dell (Head of Planning Services), James Goddard (Committee Manager) and Sara Saunders (Planning Policy Manager)

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

12/7/DPSSC Apologies

Councillors Stuart and Znajek.

12/8/DPSSC Declarations of Interest

Name	Item	Interest
Councillor Saunders	12/12/DPSSC	Personal: Member of Cambridge Past, Present & Future
Councillor Saunders	12/12/DPSSC	Personal: Attends Transition Cambridge meetings
Councillor Saunders	12/12/DPSSC	Personal: Member of Cambridge Cycling Campaign

12/9/DPSSC Minutes

The minutes of the 17 January 2012 meeting were approved and signed as a correct record

12/10/DPSSC Public Questions

None.

12/11/DPSSC Response to Consultation on the Implementation of the Sustainable Drainage System Provisions in Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Matter for Decision:

DEFRA are in the process of consulting on the implementation of Sustainable Drainage Provisions in Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Under the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act there will be a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDs) approval body that will have to approve all surface water drainage schemes prior to construction. The SuDS Approving Body (SAB) is the default responsibility of the County, but there was scope for delegation and local arrangements. National standards and guidance would be provided. The standards were being consulted on prior to guidance being produced.

Decision of Executive Councillor for Planning and Sustainable Transport:

Approved the consultation response, subject to text amendments (set out below) made by Members at 14 February 2012 DPSSC.

Reason for the Decision:

As set out in the Officer's report.

Any Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Not applicable.

Scrutiny Considerations:

The committee received a report from the Sustainable Drainage Engineer regarding the response to consultation on the Implementation of the Sustainable Drainage System Provisions in Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

In response to Member's questions the Sustainable Drainage Engineer confirmed the following:

- (i) Water run off mitigation features would be put in new developments where practicable.
- (ii) Developers had mixed views on the cost of drainage systems; if space was set aside early in the planning process, SuDs was a cost

effective system. All drainage systems required maintenance, SuDs were of a comparable or lower cost compared to other drainage systems.

- (iii) Incorporating SuDs into a design from an early stage could reduce land use / opportunity costs; as a multi-use rather than single use could be planned for land.
- (iv) The list of bodies set out in 3.3.1 of the Officer's report would only be exempt from construction with drainage implications for the first 3 years of construction. The criteria would cover anything with a drainage function after 3 years.

In response to Councillor's requests; the Sustainable Drainage Engineer confirmed additional information would be provided for the following areas of the consultation response:

- (i) Enforcement regime – DEFRA developer guidelines concerning effective water drainage and storage systems are expected in future.
- (ii) The Act provides exceptions to the need to adopt drainage systems – Councillors wanted to highlight the risk to properties in identified flood areas, including hospitals and university campuses. A cumulative impact criterion could provide an evidence base.
- (iii) The need to manage (surface) water run off on new and existing developments.

The committee resolved unanimously to adopt the recommendation as amended.

The Executive Councillor approved the amended recommendation.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted)

Not applicable.

12/12/DPSSC Cambridge Local Plan Review - Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Matter for Decision:

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is an integral part of developing the new Cambridge Local Plan to 2031. Its purpose is to identify and evaluate the impacts of the Plan on the economy, the community (social) and the environment, which are the three dimensions of sustainable development; and

to guide decision making. It is required by National Regulations and the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.

The first stage of the SA was to establish the scope of the appraisal by producing a Scoping Report. This identified key sustainability issues in Cambridge and provides a framework for carrying out the rest of the appraisal.

Decision of Executive Councillor for Planning and Sustainable Transport:
Approved the Draft Scoping Report for the Cambridge Local Plan Review for consultation with statutory consultees (as set out in Appendix A of the Officer's report), subject to a list of consultees being circulated to DPSSC for comment and sign off by email

Reason for the Decision:

As set out in the Officer's report.

Any Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Not applicable.

Scrutiny Considerations:

The committee received a report from the Senior Sustainability Officer regarding the Cambridge Local Plan Review - Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

Councillors asked for the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report to be amended as follows:

- (i) Clarify that proposed functional areas in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report split the City into the core historic centre and surrounding areas based on a cluster study. The report should identify parts of the City covered by each functional area and should recognise the interrelationships between these areas.
- (ii) Remove the reference to building on the Green Belt.
- (iii) Amend the reference regarding need to develop policy that encourages tourism.
- (iv) Amend paragraph 12.1.14 "... hectares per thousand".
- (v) The importance of the River Cam as an open space, sporting venue, tourist venue and wildlife corridor was not reflected as much as it could be in the current Local Plan. This would be strengthened in the next iteration in conjunction with Conservators of the River Cam. A reference to its wider role could also be included in the Scoping Report.

In response to Member's questions the Planning Policy Manager and Senior Sustainability Officer confirmed the following:

- (i) The Local Plan issues and options report was part of the first stage of the Local Plan review. There would also be a sustainability appraisal that sat alongside it. The Local Plan issues and options report sets out issues and options for discussion, which the Council could explore without being beholden to.
- (ii) Statutory consultees for the Scoping Report were formally defined by national Sustainability Appraisal regulation. Statutory consultees would be consulted on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report together with the County Council, all City Councillors and the public through publishing the document on-line.

The Senior Sustainability Officer undertook to circulate the list of Sustainability Appraisal consultees (as set out in Appendix B of the Officer's report) to DPSSC Members for approval and sign off.

Councillors requested a change to the recommendation. Councillor Nimmo-Smith formally proposed to amend the following recommendation from the Officer's report:

(Previous recommendation) To approve the Draft Scoping Report for the Cambridge Local Plan Review for consultation with statutory consultees (as set out in Appendix A of the Officer's report).

The committee approved amending this recommendation unanimously.

The following recommendation was formally proposed:

(New recommendation) To approve the Draft Scoping Report for the Cambridge Local Plan Review for consultation with statutory consultees (as set out in Appendix A of the Officer's report), subject to a list of consultees being circulated to DPSSC for comment and sign off by email.

The committee approved the amended recommendation by 2 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor approved the amended recommendation.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted)

Not applicable.

12/13/DPSSC To Agree Representation on the Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Planning Board and the Local Joint Strategic Planning and Delivery Board

Matter for Decision:

Under the Localism Act 2011 Councils have a formal duty to cooperate in the preparation of development plans and policies. With the intended cancellation of the East of England Plan 2008 (Regional Spatial Strategy), and the recent closure of Cambridgeshire Horizons; new governance arrangements are being set up. These would coordinate spatial planning preparation and discharge the duty to cooperate within the Cambridgeshire sub-region and at a local level between the City, South Cambridgeshire and the County Council.

The Officer's report sought approval for the City's representation on the two new governance bodies. These bodies would have advisory but not executive functions.

Decision of Executive Councillor for Planning and Sustainable Transport:

- (i) Approved the Council's formal representation on the Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Planning Board and the governance body with responsibility for co-ordination of Strategic Transport and Spatial Planning between Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.
- (ii) Sought nominations from the opposition groups for one of the three City seats on each of the governance bodies (places for two Liberal Democrat and 1 Labour representative would be allocated on each group).

Reason for the Decision:

As set out in the Officer's report.

Any Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Not applicable.

Scrutiny Considerations:

The committee received a report from the Head of Planning Services regarding representation on the Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Planning Board and the Local Joint Strategic Planning and Delivery Board.

Member representation on the Boards was proposed as follows:

- (i) Councillor Herbert (Labour Group) – Local Joint Strategic Planning and Delivery Board [local group].
- (ii) Councillor Blencowe (Labour Group) – Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Planning Board [countywide group].
- (iii) Councillors Brown and Ward (Liberal Democrat Group) – Local Joint Strategic Planning and Delivery Board.
- (iv) Councillors Reid and Ward (Liberal Democrat Group) – Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Planning Board.

In response to Member's questions the Head of Planning Services confirmed the following:

- (i) The Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Planning Board plus the Local Joint Strategic Planning and Delivery Board would be open to the public as City Council meetings were.
- (ii) The Delivery Board meetings were expected to be bi-monthly. The first meeting would set out a future work programme and issues to take forward.
- (iii) Acknowledged there had been some mixed information in the public domain concerning the Planning Boards. However, the responsibility for planning function remained with local authorities.

Councillors requested a change to the recommendation. Councillor Saunders formally proposed to amend the following recommendation from the Officer's report:

(Previous recommendation) To seek nominations from the opposition groups for one of the three City seats on each of the governance bodies.

The committee approved amending this recommendation unanimously.

The following recommendation was formally proposed:

(New recommendation) To seek nominations from the opposition groups for one of the three City seats on each of the governance bodies (places for two Liberal Democrat and 1 Labour representative would be allocated on each group).

The committee approved the amended recommendation unanimously.

The Executive Councillor approved the amended recommendation.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted)

Not applicable.

The meeting ended at 5.25 pm

CHAIR