

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

6th October 2011

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Watson (Chairman), Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Brown, Ford, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Hood and Mrs. Patten.

**Labour Group**

Councillors Chahal, Dunn, Mrs. Heath, Southerd (substitute for Councillor Taylor), Stuart and Tilley.

**In attendance**

Councillors Atkin and Wheeler (Conservative Group).

EDS/32. **APOLOGY**

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Taylor (Labour Group).

EDS/33. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th August 2011, were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

EDS/34. **CONSULTATION ON DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Members were asked to consider the overall principles of the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and formulate a response. In addition to setting the context for the Council's emerging Local Plan, the draft NPPF would, more immediately, also have a profound effect on the determination of day-to-day planning applications.

The Government had published, for consultation, a draft NPPF which was intended to replace existing national planning policy guidance, and reflected the Government's desire to prioritise growth and make the planning system more streamlined and accessible to communities, in line with localism. Members attention was drawn to four areas in particular, which were considered to be so significant as to merit a specific response. These areas were:

- A new "presumption in favour of sustainable development";
- Advice that planning policies should avoid the long-term protection of employment land or floor space;
- Advice that development should not be refused on transport grounds unless the residual impacts were "severe";

- A requirement for Councils to identify at least an additional 20% of deliverable dwellings over and above the rolling 5 year requirement.

Background to these areas was explained, and a proposed response was set out in Annexe 1 to the report.

Views had also been requested on the consistency of the draft Framework with the draft Planning Policy Statement on 'Planning for Travellers Sites', upon which consultation had recently closed, and which was intended to be incorporated into the final NPPF. A proposed response on this was similarly included at Annexe 1 to the report.

Members supported the wording within the report, however, it was requested that the response to question 18 – Gypsies and Travellers be strengthened.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the draft National Planning Policy Framework be noted.***
- (2) That the proposed responses in Annexe 1 to the report be submitted as the Council's response.***
- (3) That the response to Q18 – Gypsies and Travellers be strengthened, the exact wording to be delegated to the Head of Community and Planning Services in consultation with the Chairman of Environmental and Development Services Committee.***

EDS/35. **CONSULTATION ON EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

Members were asked to consider and formulate a response to consultation on East Staffordshire Borough Council's Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

The Borough Council had elected to persist with their overall housing requirement set out in the draft West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy of 13,000 dwellings. However, for reasons of deliverability, the Council had proposed to extend the plan period a further five years, to 2031, which had the effect of reducing the annual housing requirement to 520 dwellings per annum. Accordingly, the Borough Council estimated that, taking into account the total completions since 2006 and unimplemented planning consents, they had an outstanding need to find land for 8,771 dwellings. However, in this regard, the Borough Council had indicated that

*"... the development of 2,000 homes at Drakelow is considered to contribute to East Staffordshire's housing requirement as it will effectively be an urban extension of Burton Upon Trent".*

The Borough Council had therefore sought to reduce its search for sites by around 2,000 dwellings on the assumption that permission would be forthcoming at the former Drakelow Power Station site, which would contribute to East Staffordshire's, rather than South Derbyshire's housing requirement.

This proposal had not emerged following any discussion or agreement with South Derbyshire District Council, and was considered to be unsound for reasons detailed within the report.

Ultimately, the case for Drakelow contributing to East Staffordshire's housing requirement would be a matter for them to defend at their own public examination. However, it was being recommended that South Derbyshire District Council raised an objection for the reasons given above.

**RESOLVED:-**

***(1) That the East Staffordshire Core Strategy: Draft Pre-Publication Strategic Options be noted.***

***(2) That an objection be raised to the draft document as set out within paragraphs 4.5 – 4.6 of the report.***

EDS/36. **PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

This item was withdrawn.

EDS/37. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were asked to consider the updated work programme and to review its content where appropriate.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the updated work programme be approved.***

EDS/38. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

**RESOLVED:-**

***That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.***

**MINUTES**

***The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th August 2011, were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.***

**REORGANISATION OF THE DIRECT SERVICES SECTION WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Paragraph 1)**

***Members approved the proposals submitted for the reorganisation of the Direct Services Section within Environmental Services.***

P. WATSON

CHAIRMAN