

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON MONDAY 7 JULY 2014

PRESENT: Jennie Jenkins – Chairman

Nigel Bennett
Sue Carpendale
Richard Cave
John Hinton
Robert Lindsay

Jack Owen
Kathy Pollard
Nick Ridley
Sue Wigglesworth

Clive Arthey, Simon Barrett and Tony Bavington were unable to be present.

21 SUBSTITUTES

It was noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No.5, substitutes were in attendance as follows:-

Robert Lindsay (substituting for Clive Arthey)
Jack Owen (substituting for Tony Bavington)
Nick Ridley (substituting for Simon Barrett)

22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

23 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [12 June 2014](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

24 PETITIONS

None received.

25 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

26 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

27 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper P32](#)) relating to items which had been identified on the Committee Work Plan.

RESOLVED

That Paper P32 be noted.

28 FINAL DRAFT FINANCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY 2014-2019

The Corporate Manager – Housing Revenue Account introduced a report from the Head of Housing ([Paper P33](#)) presenting the Councils' draft Financial Inclusion Strategy for 2014-2019 and explaining its proposed outcomes, aims and objectives. The Financial Inclusion Project Officer was also present at the meeting and outlined the impact of the Government's welfare benefit reforms including the trial arrangements for the new Universal Credit.

Both officers responded to questions from Members about various aspects of the Strategy and related matters including Credit Unions, the 'poverty premium' and issues around IT accessibility. Regular feedback to Members on the implementation of the Strategy was also requested.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Financial Inclusion Strategy 2014-2019 (Appendix (a) to Paper P33) be approved.**
- (2) That the intention to develop a programme of work to deliver the aims and objectives within the Strategy be noted, with Members being updated of progress via Member Seminars.**

29 RURAL HOUSING POLICY AND CORE STRATEGY POLICY CS11 – SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

The Corporate Manager – Spatial Planning Policy introduced a report from the Head of Economy ([Paper P34](#)) asking Members to consider the responses to consultation on the Rural Housing Policy and Core Strategy Policy CS11 – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), to approve amendments to the document and to approve adoption of the SPD subject to completion of the statutory procedures. Members also had before them amended recommendations which clarified the formal adoption process and which were circulated to Members in advance of the day of the meeting. A revised Appendix 2 to Paper P34 was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The Corporate Manager outlined the purpose of the guidance which would be formally adopted as an SPD, and would be kept under review in the light of experience gained once it was in place. He answered Members' questions about various matters including Neighbourhood Plans and other, non-statutory ones, and noted points raised in the meeting which might require further minor amendments to be made, under delegation, to the draft document.

In answer to specific queries from Members about pre-application discussions, the Strategic Director (Place) and the Corporate Manager – Legal responded with reference to separate work on this aspect which is being undertaken through the Planning Transformation process and the development of the Planning Charter, but does not form part of the current consideration of the SPD.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Paper P34 and Appendix 1 (Summary of consultation responses) form the basis of the Public Consultation Statement.**

(2) That the proposed Rural Housing Policy and Core Strategy Policy CS11 – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Appendix 2 (revised) to Paper P34 be formally adopted on 8 August 2014 subject to:-

- the inclusion of any further amendments identified as a result of either (a) further consultation responses reported in accordance with paragraph 8.3 of the report or (b) Members’ deliberations at the meeting or (c) any other amendments identified as a result of further representations received by end of 4 August 2014;

and

- the Corporate Manager – Spatial Planning Policy being authorised in consultation with the Chairman of the Strategy Committee to finalise the SPD for publication in accordance with the relevant statutory procedures.

Further that the Corporate Manager be authorised to make such other minor amendments and corrections to the SPD as he considers necessary.

30 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That pursuant to Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified below on the grounds that if the public were present during this item, it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against the item.

The Committee was also satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

31 GRANT OF EASEMENT (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1)

The Minute relating to the above-mentioned item is excluded from the public record. A summary of the Minute made by the Proper Officer in accordance with sub-section 2 of Section 100(c) of the Local Government Act 1972 is set out below.

The Corporate Manager – Asset Utilisation presented a report from the Head of Corporate Resources ([Paper P35](#)). Members also had before them revised recommendations which were circulated in advance of the day of the meeting, and which incorporated minor amendments to the wording with regard to the valuation requirements. Members agreed the recommendations, as revised, to enable an easement to be granted over land in the ownership of the Council.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11.20 a.m.

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Chairman