

Minutes of a meeting of the **Place Shaping Panel** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **4 November 2019** at **6.00pm** when there were present:

Mr N J Brennan
Mr S M Clancy
Ms J A Neesam

Mr G K Nurden
Mrs L A Starling
Miss J L Thomas

Mr J M Ward

Also in attendance were the Assistant Director of Planning, Spatial Planning Manager, Planning Projects and Landscape Manager and Committee Officer (JO).

5 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and after calling for nominations it was

RESOLVED:

To appoint Mr Brennan as Chairman for the meeting.

Mr Brennan in the Chair

6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Hempsall and Miss Lawn.

7 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Minute No. 3 – Greater Norwich Local Plan

Members were advised that the Greater Norwich Local Plan was scheduled to go to the Greater Norwich Development Partnership on 6 January 2020 for endorsement of the Regulation 18 Consultation and then on to the 14 January 2020 Cabinet for final agreement.

8 JOINT CORE STRATEGY FOR BROADLAND, NORWICH AND SOUTH NORFOLK: ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2017/18

The Panel received the Joint Core Strategy Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for 2017/18, which set out how plans were progressing and the objectives in the Local Plan were being met.

A key element of the AMR was the housing land supply assessment; as local planning authorities were required under the National Planning Policy Framework to have a minimum of five years housing land supply. This was formerly calculated separately for the Norwich Policy Area and the Rural Policy Areas of Broadland and South Norfolk, but was now calculated for the whole of Greater Norwich. Using this methodology the housing land supply from April 2018 to March 2024 was 6.54 years. Individually Broadland had 7.33 years, South Norfolk 5.90 years and Norwich 6.82 years.

The report also set out the Community Infrastructure Levy receipts for local authorities, as well as parish and town councils, which for 2017/18 was £3,333,571.

The report also outlined progress against targets set out in the monitoring framework of the adopted Broadland Local Plans: Development Management DPD; Site Allocations DPD and Growth Triangle Area Action Plan.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that the 2017/18 AMR had been delayed due to resource issues for the planning authorities. It had also been an unusual year as the methodology for calculating land supply had changed, which had caused delay. The AMR for 2018/19 was expected to be published before the end of the year. Members were also asked to note that Broadland had published its interim statement to demonstrate land supply in March 2019 and the latest housing delivery data should be published this month.

AGREED

To note the Annual Monitoring Report 2017/18.

9 TRANSFORMING CITIES FUNDING SUBMISSION

The Department for Transport had launched a £1.7bn Transforming Cities Fund in March 2018, which aimed to stimulate productivity, prosperity and jobs through investment in public and sustainable transport in English city regions.

A joint Greater Norwich officer team had submitted an initial bid to the first tranche of the scheme. The application was based on a vision to 'Invest in

clean and shared transport, creating a healthy environment, increasing social mobility and boosting productivity through enhanced access to employment and learning.'

The bid placed the city centre as the hub with six corridors leading out to Broadland Business Park, Norwich Research Park, Easton, Rackheath, Sprowston and Norwich Airport Industrial Estate, as they offered the greatest potential for productivity growth due to the density of homes, jobs, education and transport services that are accessed from them. In March 2019 Department for Transport awarded the Norwich City Region £6.1m for six schemes as part of tranche 1. These were:

- Prince of Wales Road
- Dereham Road Pedestrian Access and Safety
- Norwich Bus Station Upgrade
- Norwich Bike Share
- Blue Pedalway – Hethersett Section
- Green Pedalway – St Williams Way/Ring Road Section

The deliverability of the proposals in the submission was praised by the Department for Transport. The team were currently preparing a Strategic Outline Business Case, which was required to submit a bid to the second tranche of the fund by the 28 November 2019 deadline. The bid was to be submitted in a three tiered package; low (£72.5m), medium (£87.5m) and high (£162.5m) – note: these figures are still liable to change come the final submission. Examples of projects within the various levels of funding packages include:

- The widening of Salhouse Road from Harrison's Wood to the Broadland Northway to allow for a continuous walking and cycling route to Rackheath.
- A link road from Plumstead Road over the Bittern Railway Line to the north of Broadland Business Park, resulting in the closure of Green Lane to traffic and it becoming a pedestrian/cycle greenway.
- Increasing bus priority along Yarmouth Road by removing car parking, improving the Pound Lane junction and other measures.

In response to a query about a rail halt at Broadland Business Park, the Panel was informed that although it remained an ambition of the Council there was insufficient interest and funding from the rail companies to bring this forward at this stage.

In answer to a suggestion from the Chairman that a roundabout should replace the traffic lights near Sainsbury's in Thorpe St Andrew, the Panel was advised that the wider Transport for Norwich programme would be a more appropriate body to bring forward such a scheme.

Concern was expressed about removing parking along Yarmouth Road to increase bus priority, as parking at Thorpe Lodge was already very restricted. A Member also expressed surprise that there was no incentive for electric cars proposed for the project.

In response the Planning Projects and Landscape Manager advised Members that the main emphasis of the scheme was in achieving clean and shared mobility through targeted investment in buses, cycling and walking in order to make them competitive with private car ownership. However, Norfolk Car Share Club was being encouraged.

RESOLVED

To note the content of the report.

10 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION RELATING TO PLANNING

The Assistant Director of Planning advised the meeting that the report proposed to amend delegated powers in the Constitution to allow planning applications contrary to policy to be approved where they related to the change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage. This was because the Committee had considered a high number of these minor proposals since 2018 and all but one had been approved.

Members would still however retain the power to refer any application to Committee as the local Member, if they wished.

It was also proposed to refer applications to committee where the planning application had potential to generate employment, but the recommendation was for refusal or the proposal had potential to result in the loss of employment, but the recommendation was for approval. It was confirmed that the Economic Development department was consulted when applications had the potential to generate employment.

RECOMMENDATION

that the Monitoring Officer proposes the following amendments to the Council's Constitution with respect to functions relating to planning to be reported to Council in December 2019 for final decision:

- To allow proposals contrary to policy to be approved where they relate to the change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage.
- To refer applications to Committee where the proposal has potential to generate employment, but the recommendation is for refusal or the proposal has potential to result in the loss of employment, but the recommendation is for approval.

The meeting closed at 7.02 pm