



REGULATION AND PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Regulation and Planning Policy Committee held by video link on Tuesday 5 January 2021 at 10.00am

Committee Members Present: Councillors: F Ellis (Chairman), B Duffin, J Halls, W Kemp, S Nuri-Nixon, J Savage, T Spruce and V Thomson

Apologies
Cabinet Members in Attendance: Councillor: P Hardy
Councillor: J Fuller and L Neal

Officers in Attendance: The Assistant Director Planning (H Mellors), the Greater Norwich Planning Policy Manager (M Burrell)

Also in Attendance: One member of the public (Mr Gledhill from Bunwell Parish Council)

71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared "other" interests in the items listed below:

MEMBER	ITEM	REASON
Cllr J Fuller	73 - Greater Norwich Local Plan – Regulation 19, Pre-submission Publication	The Council's representative on the Greater Norwich Development Partnership, and as a member of the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association Consultative Council.
Cllr L Neal	73 - Greater Norwich Local Plan – Regulation 19, Pre-submission Publication	Member of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership

72 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

73 GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN – REGULATION 19, PRE-SUBMISSION PUBLICATION

Members considered the report of the Place Shaping Manager, which sought agreement for Cabinet to publish the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP), under Regulation 19 of the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Chairman advised the meeting that they were indebted to officers and members for the amount of work that had been undertaken to get to this stage of the Plan making process.

The Greater Norwich Planning Policy Manager outlined the salient points of his report, explaining the purpose of the Regulation 19 stage of the Plan, the tests of soundness that the Plan should comply with, and the main changes from the Regulation 18 consultation version.

Members noted that it was proposed that the draft GNLP would be published for comment from 1 February to 15 March 2021. Representations received would assist members in deciding whether to submit the Plan in June 2021 and would be critical in informing the independent examination process.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr J Fuller thanked officers for the report and noted the difficulties of reviewing over 1,000 pages of representations received following the Regulation 18 consultation, all whilst in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. He stressed that there had been a focus on ensuring that the general thrust of consultation responses had been taken into account.

Cllr Fuller referred to a number of changes since the Regulation 18 version of the Plan, in particular the reference to the need for a new settlement.

Cllr Fuller felt that additional amendments to the document were required, referring to retail policies and the need to actively consider how land currently for retail was released for other purposes. He stressed the need to be more explicit about areas it wanted to protect in peripheral locations.

The Portfolio Holder, Cllr L Neal, commended the report to members, and agreed with the suggested amendments outlined by Cllr Fuller. She expressed her support for the South Norfolk Village Clusters Plan, which she felt would help to reinvigorate smaller rural villages, provide more choice for residents and provide work for smaller businesses in the building trade. She also welcomed the proposed work to plan for a new settlement, which would form part of a future Local Plan.

Discussion followed regarding the proposal for a new settlement, with one member expressing concerns that local councils would have minimal input in to where they might go. Cllr Fuller stressed that any new settlement would not form part of the current Local Plan but should be considered for the next Local Plan in 5- or 6-years'

time. He felt it was the responsibility of the Regulation and Planning Policy Committee to frame any future debate and identify the success factors for any new settlement proposals.

In response to a query regarding Neighbourhood Plans, officers advised the Committee that the Greater Norwich Local Plan would not replace Neighbourhood Plans, and that these would sit alongside the new Plan. The Greater Norwich Planning Policy Manager explained that with future changes to the Planning Policy Framework, this would need to be reviewed in the next round of Plan making.

During discussion, one member asked that the Committee and officers take note of the recent severe flooding in South Norfolk, highlighting the need to emphasise that new developments needed to take flood risks into consideration at the planning stage. Concerns were also raised over the lack of parking provision in new developments, with the retirement village in Harleston highlighted as an example of this.

Members referred to the Plan's aim to make high-speed broadband available for more than 95 percent of Norfolk's premises. One member suggested that given the current circumstances, where homeworking was of utmost importance, the aim should be to make super-fast broadband available to 100 percent of new premises.

In response to a query regarding Policy 3 Environmental Protection and the reference to payments to HRA Directive protected sites, the Greater Norwich Planning Policy Manager explained that he anticipated that the payments of £200 would be paid by the developer, on a house by house basis, and the details of this would be determined at a later stage. These payments were to address concerns, mainly from Natural England, regarding the impacts on protected habitat sites.

A roll call was undertaken, and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED

To recommend that Cabinet

1. Agrees to publish the draft GNLP under regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 from 1 February to 15 March 2021, subject to minor amendments; *and*
2. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director for Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the Economy and External Affairs to make any minor or factual corrections to the GNLP ahead of its publication.

(The meeting concluded 10.51 am)

Chairman