

REGULATION AND PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting of the Regulation and Planning Policy Committee of South Norfolk District Council held on Friday 9 April 2021 at 10am.

Committee Members Present:	Councillors: F Ellis (Chairman), B Duffin, J Halls, S Nuri-Nixon, J Savage, T Spruce and V Thomson
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors: P Hardy and W Kemp
Cabinet Member Present:	Councillor: L Neal
Other Member Present:	Councillor: V Clifford-Jackson
Officers in Attendance:	The Assistant Director for Planning (H Mellors), the Place Shaping Manager (P Harris) and the Senior Heritage and Design Officer (C Bennett)

78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

79 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Regulation and Planning Policy Committee held on Friday 5 February 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

80 ENDORSEMENT OF THE NORFOLK STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK UPDATE

Members considered the report of the Place Shaping Manager, which sought members' agreement to endorse the update to the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF).

The Council, as a local planning authority, had a legal responsibility to engage constructively with other public bodies on strategic cross-boundary planning matters, and the NSPF provided a structure for doing so.

The NSPF included 31 formal agreements and was prepared by officers from the constituent Norfolk authorities, under the oversight of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum.

It was recommended that the Committee advised Cabinet to recommend to Council that it endorsed the revised NSPF and to agree that it remained a signatory of the document.

In response to a query, regarding updates to the NSPF the Place Shaping Manager explained that it would continue to be regularly updated on a periodic basis and he confirmed that the objectives within the framework would go on to be translated into the Council's local plans.

In respect of the relationship of the Strategy with neighbouring authorities in Suffolk, members were advised that officers from both counties attended a number of different forums with their counterparts on a regular basis to discuss cross-border issues and planning in the eastern region generally.

A member raised concern over the objective of transport in the Framework and whether the Council was reliant on travel companies to achieve this. In response the Place Shaping Manager confirmed that lots of public transport services were driven by economics, but that Norfolk County Council in its role as Highway Authority did seek to access funding for capital schemes that supported public transport and to influence the provision of public transport where it could.

In answer to a query about the provision of broadband it was confirmed that the Greater Norwich Local Plan seeks to ensure large sites are provide with fast broadband and that smaller sites also received high speed broadband, wherever achievable. It was noted that during the pandemic broadband was of even more importance due to residents working from home and home-schooling.

The Chairman thanked officers for a detailed report, and it was unanimously;

RESOLVED

To advise Cabinet to recommend to Council, to

1. Endorse the update to the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework; and
2. Agree to remain a signatory to the document

81 ADOPTION OF CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS AND BOUNDARY AMENDMENTS FOR BURSTON, FORNCETT, GISSING, WINFARTHING, WRAMPLINGHAM AND THORPE ABBOTTS

Members considered the report of the Senior Heritage and Design Officer, which sought members to advise Cabinet to recommend to Council the approval of amendments and revised boundaries for Burston, Forncett, Gissing, Winfarthing, Wramplingham and Thorpe Abbots Conservation Areas and the adoption of the conservation area appraisals and management guidelines for the areas.

Members noted that the documents would need further work to make them accessible for all, which was likely to cause some delay in their progression through to Cabinet and final approval by Council.

The Committee was advised of the key areas of the report which included changes to the Conservation Boundaries, Planning Regulations, Tree Protection, and the online Consultation for the proposed changes.

The Senior Heritage and Design officer drew members' attention to the feedback received from public consultation, which was set out in the Committee report. The officer highlighted key feedback which had been received alongside any resolutions made from the consultation.

The Portfolio Holder for Stronger Economy commended the report and was pleased to note that the Council had still been able to liaise with parishes as well as residents through consultations despite the current pandemic.

The Local Member for Forncett agreed, adding that officers had succeeded in their approach to the conservation areas and he was happy with the outcome.

The Chairman thanked the Senior Heritage and Design Officer for a detailed report and presentation, and it was unanimously;

RESOLVED

To advise Cabinet to recommend to Council, to

1. Approve and adopt the proposed changes to the boundaries of Burston, Forncett, Gissing, Winfarthing, Wramplingham and Thorpe Abbots Conservation Areas; and
2. Approve and adopt the conservations area appraisals and management guidelines for the conservation areas of Burston, Forncett, Gissing, Winfarthing, Wramplingham and Thorpe Abbots.

(The meeting concluded at 10:35)

Chairman