

REGULATION AND PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Regulation and Planning Policy Committee of South Norfolk District Council held on Friday 23 September 2022 at 10am.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: B Duffin (Vice-Chairman, in the chair), P Hardy and W Kemp

Apologies for Absence: Councillors: F Ellis, J Halls, S Nuri-Nixon, J Savage, T Spruce and V Thomson

Substitute Members: Councillors: F Curson (for J Savage), T Holden (for T Spruce) and N Legg (for F Ellis)

Officers in Attendance: The Place Shaping Manager (P Harris) and the Democratic Services Manager (C White)

104 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs F Ellis (substitute Cllr Legg), J Halls, S Nuri-Nixon, J Savage (substitute Cllr F Curson), T Spruce (substitute Cllr T Holden) and V Thomson.

105 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

106 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Regulation and Planning Policy Committee held on Tuesday 21 June 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

107 UPDATE OF THE SOUTH NORFOLK LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Members considered the report of the Place Shaping Manager, which outlined the amendments to the timetable for the production and adoption of the Greater Norwich Local Plan, South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing

Allocations Plan (VCHAP) and the East Norwich Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The Place Shaping Manager presented his report, reminding members that it was a statutory requirement for the Council to publish an up-to-date Local Development Scheme for South Norfolk.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3 of the report which outlined the reasons for the required changes to the timetable.

The Place Shaping Manager explained that delays to the VCHAP had been due to ongoing challenges in completing some of the technical work, which was compounded by current vacancies within the Place Shaping team. Members noted that some staff from the One Team had been seconded to work with colleagues from Norwich City Council to work on the GNLP, and that the release of this resource had been delayed due to the ongoing examination.

In response to a query, the Place Shaping Manager informed members that the Council had consulted on a draft VCHAP in early 2021, which had set out a list of preferred sites, and a series of shortlisted sites. The consultation had resulted in a lot of feedback and officers expected the final selection to differ from what had been presented at the draft stage. It was now expected that the VCHAP would be published during November, December or January 2022/23, submitted for independent examination in June/July 2023 and adopted in early 2024.

Referring to the GNLP, the Place Shaping Manager explained that the examination was still in progress, and that the key outstanding matters related to the impact of Nutrient Neutrality and the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites.

With regard to the East Norwich Masterplan, members noted that although this had been identified for consultation in early 2023, it was possible that this might slip to after the elections in May.

In response to queries regarding Nutrient Neutrality and suggestions that the Government might be relaxing the rules, the Place Shaping Manager responded that it was difficult to assess whether this would speed up the GNLP process, without knowing any further details. He added that immediate change was required to make any significant impact at this stage.

Regarding queries relating to the vacancies in the team, the Place Shaping Manager explained that consultants had been employed to complete bespoke pieces of work, however, more permanent solutions were now required, so that the team was better placed to present evidence at an examination, with a full sense of the work and timeline involved.

It was

RESOLVED

To recommend that Cabinet recommends to Council that it approves the proposed amendments to the current Local Development Scheme.

(The meeting concluded at 10.16 am)

Chairman