

# Minutes

## Local Plan Sub-Committee 17th March 2022



Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
J Abbott	Apologies	A Everard	Yes
K Bowers	Apologies	D Hume	Yes
G Butland	Apologies	Mrs W Scattergood	Yes
J Coleridge	Apologies	Mrs G Spray (Chairman)	Yes
T Cunningham	Apologies	P Thorogood	Yes
Mrs C Dervish	No	J Wrench	Yes

### 21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**INFORMATION:** The following interests were declared:

Councillor Mrs W Scattergood declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 6 - 'Bramford to Twinstead Grid Reinforcement (B2T) - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' as the villages in the Braintree District which were affected by the proposal were within Stour Valley South Ward, which she represented as a Councillor.

Councillor P Thorogood declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 5 – 'Minerals Local Plan Review Changes – Response' as he supported 'Coggeshall Residents Against the Quarry' (CRAQ) and he had objected to Coggeshall quarry and a proposed flood alleviation scheme. Councillor Thorogood stated that following advice from the Council's Governance Service he had registered to speak about this Item during Question Time as a member of the public and that he would leave the meeting whilst the Item was considered and determined.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillors remained in the meeting, unless stated otherwise, and took part in the discussion when the Items were considered.

## 22 **MINUTES**

**DECISION:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Committee held on 25th November 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 23 **QUESTION TIME**

**INFORMATION:** One statement was made by Mr P Thorogood about Agenda Item 5 – ‘Minerals Local Plan Review Changes – Response’. Mr Thorogood had submitted a written statement in advance of the meeting and he read this to the Sub-Committee immediately prior to the consideration of the Item.

Mr Thorogood spoke during Question Time as a member of the public. However, as Mr Thorogood had declared an interest in this Item in his capacity as an Elected Member of Braintree District Council he left the meeting whilst the Item was considered and determined.

Principally, these Minutes record decisions taken only and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions.

## 24 **MINERALS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW CHANGES - RESPONSE**

**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to a report on further proposed changes by Essex County Council to the Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014 Review. These changes were subject to public consultation.

Members of the Local Plan Sub-Committee were reminded that they had considered the review of the Local Plan at their meeting on 20th April 2021. A response had subsequently been forwarded to the County Council, which had reiterated the District Council's concerns about the number and distribution of sand and gravel extraction sites within the Braintree District, but had welcomed the proposal that no new sites were envisaged.

The proposed changes related specifically to Policy S6 – Provision for Sand and Gravel extraction; and to a ‘call for sites’. Information regarding the proposals was set out in the ‘Topic Paper Policy S6: Provision for Sand and Gravel Extraction 2021’ and in an accompanying document which set out the proposed amendments.

It was reported that the main changes related to the recalculation of the annual need for sand and gravel from 4.31 mtpa to 3.74 mtpa; that the annual need figure should be calculated on a 10 year rolling sales figure plus a buffer of 20%; and that a seven year land bank of at least 26.18 mt should exist at the end of the Plan

period. It was anticipated that there would be a shortfall of 8.67 mt in such provision, which would trigger a 'call for sites' and further public consultation.

The Council's proposed response to public consultation on the recent changes to the Local Plan were set out in Appendix 1 of the Agenda report. In discussing the response, it was agreed that it should specify the end date of the proposed Plan.

**DECISION:** That a formal representation, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Agenda report and as amended be sent to Essex County Council in response to public consultation on changes to the Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014 Review.

## 25 **BRAMFORD TO TWINSTEAD GRID REINFORCEMENT (B2T) - NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to a report regarding National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET) Bramford to Twinstead 400kV grid reinforcement project (B2T). This was a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, which was subject to statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 between 25th January 2022 and 21st March 2022. The project affected part of the Braintree District. Members of the Local Plan Sub-Committee were requested to endorse the Council's proposed response to NGET as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The report provided an overview of the project and its likely impacts. In particular, the project proposed a new 400 Kilovolts (kV) electricity transmission connection of approximately 29km between Bramford substation in Suffolk to Twinstead Tee in Essex comprising approximately 19km of overhead line and 10km of underground cable along the entire route; the provision of four cable sealing end compounds (CSEC) to connect overhead line and underground cable sections; the removal of approximately 25km of existing 132 kV pylons between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee; the removal of approximately 2.5km of existing 400 kV pylons south of Twinstead Tee; and the provision of a new grid supply point (GSP) substation at Butler's Wood to connect the local distribution network operated by UK Power Networks (UKPN) to the National Grid.

As part of the statutory consultation process NGET had published a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). This report had been subject to analysis by Essex County Council and others on behalf of Braintree District Council. The impacts set out in the PEIR were summarised in the Agenda report. It was proposed that the technical responses received from Essex County Council and others following their analysis and as set out as Appendices to the Agenda report, should be sent to NGET with the District Council's formal response.

**DECISION:** That Braintree District Council's proposed response to statutory consultation on the 'Bramford to Twinstead 400kV grid reinforcement project (B2T). - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project', as set out at Appendix 1 to the

Agenda report be approved and submitted to National Grid Electricity Transmission, subject to it being amended to seek clarification regarding the infrastructure to be provided, retained or removed in the vicinity of Twinstead Tee, and subject to the reference to 'Climate Change Energy' in paragraph 1.2 of the response being amended to 'Climate Change Emergency'.

26 **MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL - ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION 2022 - RESPONSE**

**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to a report on Maldon District Council's Local Plan Issues and Options document which had been published for consultation as part of the Council's review of its Local Plan. The current Local Plan had been adopted in 2017 and it covered the period from 2014 to 2029.

Maldon District Council had decided to update its Local Plan as the delivery rate for garden suburbs and strategic allocations had been less than 75% of projected housing completions in three consecutive years. The Council considered also that elements of its evidence base were out of date. Braintree District Council's proposed response to the consultation document was set out at section 3 of the Agenda report.

It was anticipated that Maldon District Council would undertake further public consultation on a preferred strategy in Summer 2022; that the revised Plan would be submitted for Examination in late Spring 2023 and that the Plan would be adopted in late Autumn 2023.

**DECISION:** That Braintree District Council's response to Maldon District Council's Local Plan Issues and Options consultation document, as set out in section 3 of the Agenda report, be approved.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 6.55pm.

Councillor Mrs G Spray  
(Chairman)