

Minutes

Local Plan Sub-Committee

11th June 2015

Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
D Bebb	Yes	Mrs J Money	Yes
Mrs L Bowers-Flint (Chairman)	Yes	Lady Newton	Yes
G Butland	Apologies	J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Yes
T Cunningham	Yes	Mrs W Scattergood	Yes
D Hume	Yes	Miss M Thorogood	Yes

Councillors J Abbott and P Schwier were also in attendance.

1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: The following interest was declared:

Councillor Lady Newton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 – 'Essex County Council: Sustainable Drainage Systems – Design Guide' as Essex County Council's elected Member for Braintree Eastern Division.

2 **MINUTES**

INFORMATION: The Minutes of the meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Committee held on 12th January 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were no questions asked, or statements made.

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

4 **LOCAL PLAN ISSUES AND SCOPING CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - RESPONSES**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on the outcome of consultation on the Local Plan Issues and Scoping document. Members were advised that the publication of the Issues and Scoping document was the first stage

of public participation in the production of a new Local Plan for the District to cover the period up to 2033.

The Issues and Scoping document had been subject to public consultation between 26th January 2015 and 6th March 2015. A total of 308 individual responses had been submitted which included 1442 separate comments. A summary of the comments received was set out in the report and all comments were available to view on the Council's website.

It was noted that a number of comments highlighted the need for infrastructure, especially schools, health facilities, roads and public transport to be improved significantly before new homes could be built. All responses would be considered in detail and they would assist in shaping the new Local Plan to be published in draft form in late 2015. Further discussions would take place with key stakeholders, landowners, Councillors and Parish Councils as part of this process.

It was reported that in May 2015 the Council had received a petition from Kelvedon and Feering Heritage Society signed by 574 people. The petition asked the Council not to allocate substantial new housing development in Kelvedon, Feering and their surroundings as it was considered that this would destroy the character and rural setting of the villages and overload road and rail infrastructure. In addition, the petition asked the Council not to co-operate with Colchester Borough Council in releasing development land within the Braintree District to form an extension to a proposed new settlement at Marks Tey. Members were advised that the petition did not form part of the consultation responses to the Issues and Scoping document. It was reported also that the Council had a statutory duty to work with neighbouring authorities on Local Plan matters and that the Council would continue to engage with Colchester Borough Council.

DECISION: That the consultation process on the Local Plan Issues and Scoping document and the responses received be noted.

5 DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARIES – CRITERIA FOR REVIEWING

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on the proposed methodology and criteria to be used for reviewing development boundaries as part of the preparation of the emerging Local Plan.

It was noted that development boundaries were denoted by a black line drawn on a plan around a settlement. Development boundaries were recognised as a tool to define established built-up areas and to conserve the character of the open countryside. The boundaries sought to prevent unnecessary urban sprawl and the loss of greenfield sites in the open landscape.

It was noted that there were currently 66 defined development boundaries in the District. There were also a number of smaller settlements/hamlets in the District without development boundaries which were considered to be in the countryside.

The proposed review of the District's development boundaries would assist in meeting housing targets, indicate whether features defining a boundary had

changed, ensure that development was focused in the most sustainable settlements, and assist in protecting local landscapes and the character of settlements.

It was reported that since the adoption of the Braintree District Local Plan 1995 and the development boundaries contained within it, there had been significant changes to national planning policy. As part of the review, regard would be had to the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance.

DECISION: That the proposed methodology and criteria for reviewing development boundaries in relation to the preparation of the emerging Local Plan be approved.

6 **ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL: SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS – DESIGN GUIDE**

INFORMATION: It was reported that Essex County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) had produced a Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide (December 2014) for development throughout Essex. It was proposed that the document should be approved by Braintree District Council as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and in the development of policy within the emerging Local Plan.

Members were advised that with effect from 6th April 2015, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) had to be considered as a material planning consideration in the determination of major planning applications. In considering such planning applications, Local Planning Authorities were required to consult the relevant LLFA on the management of surface water; satisfy themselves that the proposed minimum standards of operation were appropriate; and ensure through the use of planning conditions or planning obligations that there were clear arrangements in place for on-going maintenance over the lifetime of a development.

It was noted that the SuDS Design Guide did not make detailed recommendations regarding maintenance arrangements.

DECISION: That the Essex County Council: Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide (December 2014) be approved as planning guidance.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 6.31pm.

Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint
(Chairman)