

Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning Communities EAP

At 10.00am on Monday 30 January 2023

Held in the Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby

Present:

Members

Councillor David Brackenbury (Chair)

Councillor Jennie Bone

Councillor Barbara Jenney

Councillor Mark Dearing

Councillor Anne Lee

Officers

George Candler – Executive Director of Place and Economy

Simon Richardson – Interim Planning Policy Lead Manager

Simon James – Policy Manager (Strategic Policy, Design and Delivery)

Louise Tyers – Senior Democratic Services Officer

Also Present

Councillor Michael Tebbutt – Assistant Executive Member

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Planning Communities EAP.

2. Apologies for Non-Attendance

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Robin Carter and Steven North.

3. Members' Declarations of Interest

The Chair invited those who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda.

No declarations were made.

4. Terms of Reference and Scope of the EAP

The general terms of reference and scope of the new Executive Advisory Panels was noted.

The Interim Planning Policy Lead Manager advised that he would look to expand on the corporate priorities/key priorities for the Planning Communities EAP. As meetings had now gone to bi-monthly, it was expected that there would be more use of workshops and briefings to ensure that the Panel's time was used efficiently.

The Chair confirmed that due to the strategic issues the Panel would need to consider, additional meetings may be needed and they would be held as and when required.

5. Planning Policy Work Programme

The Interim Planning Policy Lead Manager presented a report which informed the EAP of the proposed planning policy work programme for the next 12-15 months.

27th March 2023

- Gypsy & Traveller Site Allocations Policy
- Kettering Energy Park Masterplan: Draft Consultation (this may need an additional meeting)
- Houses in Multiple Occupation
- Tresham Garden Village
- Local Development Scheme
- Neighbourhood Planning Guidance Note

19th July 2023

- East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2
- Rushden East Masterplan Framework Document Supplementary Planning Document
- Kettering Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan
- Corby Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan
- Kettering Energy Park Masterplan

13th September 2023

- North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan: Options Consultation
- Gypsy & Traveller Site Allocations Policy – Draft Plan for Consultation
- Biodiversity Net Gain

15th November 2023

- Corby Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan

17th January 2024

- Gypsy & Traveller Site Allocations Policy – Publication Plan Consultation

During discussion, the following key points were noted:

- i. For the Gypsy & Traveller Site Allocation Policy, Members stated that it would be helpful to see maps of where existing places were. There was a need to understand the position better and to put it into context.
- ii. Members welcomed the work around the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans as they would put the Council in a strong position to make funding bids in the future.

- iii. It was noted that there was nothing in the work programme about Minerals and Waste. Officers advised that a service plan was being worked on and they would look to provide an update on this area in the future.

RESOLVED:

To note the contents of the Planning Policy Work Programme.

6. Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy

The Interim Planning Policy Lead Manager presented a report which informed members of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy consultation and to consider the Council's proposed response.

The consultation paper identified a series of policy objectives designed to support the planning system and to make it work better for communities, to deliver more homes through sustainable development, building pride in place and supporting levelling up more generally. The consultation asked a number of questions and details of the Council's draft response was detailed in the report.

During discussion, the following key points were noted:

- i. The focus on Neighbourhood Plans was welcomed, however not all communities had a Plan and it would be important to ensure that all communities had proper protection. It was suggested that the Council should encourage all areas to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.
- ii. Whilst more sites for small builders was welcomed, the proposed threshold of a 10% requirement was questioned as to whether the threshold should be set to keep with demand rather than being an arbitrary figure.
- iii. The proposal for an Infrastructure Levy to be charged at the point of occupation was questioned. Members all supported that this Levy needed to be in place before occupation of any dwellings. It was expected that the Levy would replace S106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy and further consultation was expected shortly.
- iv. The development of social rent homes was currently a get out for developers as they would always use viability as a reason why they could not be delivered.
- v. The use of the word 'beautiful' when referring to the design of places was subjective and would not be very helpful.

RESOLVED:

To note the contents of the report.

7. Format of Future Meetings

The Panel considered the format of future meetings and agreed that they wished to continue to hold them in-person, with the meetings being live streamed.

8. Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked Members, officers and the public for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.15am.

Chair

Date