

Greater Norwich Development Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday 26 September 2019

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Broadland District Council, Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0DU

Board Members:

Broadland District Council:

Cllr Lana Hempsall, Cllr Sue Lawn, Cllr Shaun Vincent

Norwich City Council:

Cllr Kevin Maguire, Cllr Mike Stonard, Cllr Alan Waters

South Norfolk Council:

Cllr Florence Ellis, Cllr John Fuller, Cllr Lisa Neal

Norfolk County Council:

Cllr Stuart Clancy, Cllr Andrew Proctor, Cllr Barry Stone

Officers in attendance: Mike Burrell, Carole Baker, Phil Courtier, Graham Nelson, Matt Tracey, Marie-Pierre Tighe, Emma Hodds, Jonathan Pyle, Catherine Morris-Gretton and Richard Doleman.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman advised the meeting that through his consultancy Abzag, he was promoting, on behalf of the landowner, a site for residential development in Colney through the Greater Norwich Local Plan. When this site was under consideration he would declare a disclosable pecuniary interest and shall vacate the chair and leave the room.

In the interests of transparency, he also brought to the Board's attention, that his father, Malcolm Vincent, through his company Vincent Howes, was promoting, on behalf of the landowners, a site for residential development in Costessey/Bawburgh through the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

In this case under the provisions of the Code of Conduct, there was no interest to declare which would prevent him from participating in the debate and chairing the meeting.

He added that he would be declaring the same interests when chairing Broadland's Place Shaping Panel and when as a Member of Broadland District Council's Cabinet and Council GNLP matters were considered.

Cllr John Fuller advised the meeting that he owned some employment land in Seething.

Cllr Stuart Clancy declared that he had a family interest in a site in the area.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro and Cllr Martin Wilby.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2019 were agreed as a correct record

4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

In response to a query from a member of the public, the Assistant Director of Governance and Business Support (Monitoring Officer) confirmed that the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) was a body that advised and gave a steer and made recommendations to its constituent authorities. The GNDP was not a decision making body and is not governed by the Local Government Act 2000, but it had been decided in the interests of transparency that its meeting would be held in public.

5. APPROVAL FOR DRAFT GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN (REGULATION 18) CONSULTATION

The report proposed that the GNDP Board recommended that the constituent authorities endorse for consultation the proposed content of the draft (Regulation 18) Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) subject to agreement on changes outlined in the associated schedule of changes (Schedule 1), and its finalisation under delegated authority to Directors. Public consultation would be for six weeks from 28 October to 9 December 2019.

The Chairman noted that some Members had identified some shortcomings in the draft GNLP and he had concerns about the apparent increase in the overall number of additional homes proposed, which had increased from 7,200 to 8,751. It was also not clear in the document if the ten percent requirement for smaller sites was being met.

A Member added that the language used in the GNLP was too technical and she recommended that the consultation be deferred to January 2020 to allow it to be redrafted to make it more understandable for the general public.

A Member agreed with this proposal and suggested that the GNLP had strayed from the approach set out in the 'Towards a Strategy' document that the Board had endorsed on 29 January 2019. However, he considered that it was possible that it could be brought back on track for publication within three months.

Another Member concurred with these views and questioned the methodology by which the increase in overall new allocations had been reached.

However, another Member stated that he had no issues with the document as drafted and would be happy for the consultation to commence as proposed. He reminded the Board that the GNLP was an evolutionary document that had been drafted by the Greater Norwich Local Plan Team with each local authority in order to reach a consensus. He noted that the only areas that he would like to see improved would be in respect of actions to address climate change and growth in areas of urban concentration; but as the GNLP would be subject to consultation these issues could be remedied at the pre-submission stage. However, he was mindful of the opinion of other Members of the Board and was willing to concede to a deferment of the consultation until January 2020, but he was adamant that there should be no longer delay than three months.

A Member suggested that the areas to concentrate on were bringing the GNLP back to the principles that the Board had endorsed when it had considered the Towards a Strategy report. The sites must be agreed, especially rural sites to ensure that each authority was satisfied that they were viable and sustainable. Also it must be ensured that the sites were deliverable within the timeframe of the Plan. In particular, he indicated the policy on village clusters as an area for further work.

A Member agreed with this approach and suggested that all sites should be reassessed to confirm that they were robust and met the agreed assessment criteria, but that it should be ensured that the work was adequately resourced in order to avoid any further delay.

The Chairman advised the meeting that it would be ensured that sufficient resource was provided for the work and that there could be no further delay to the consultation beyond January 2020.

It was also confirmed that Leaders would provide input into this process over this period to assist officers with the process.

RESOLVED

To defer the consultation of the draft Greater Norwich Local Plan (Regulation 18), until January 2020, to allow further work as set out above to be completed.

6. DRAFT (REGULATION 18) PLAN CONSULTATION – COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The report presented the proposed communication plan for the forthcoming draft Plan (Regulation 18) consultation.

A Member noted that some key messages (such as those in respect of climate change) had failed to keep up with current thinking and needed updating.

It was also suggested that the text needed proof-reading to correct a number of errors, for example, an officer referred to in the report was no longer responsible for communications for the GNLP.

RESOLVED

to agree to recommend that the constituent authorities endorse the approach to the consultation, subject to the above amendments.

7. DRAFT GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN (REGULATION 18) REVISED TIMETABLE

The report presented the proposed timetable for the remaining stages of the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) which, following the resolution at Minute 5 above, would now be amended to commence the consultation in January 2020.

A Member suggested that despite the delay to the commencement of the consultation the adoption of the GNLP was still achievable by March 2022.

RESOLVED

to agree to recommend that the constituent authorities endorse the timetable for progressing the GNLP, subject to the deferment of the consultation until January 2020 and that districts update their Local Development Schemes accordingly.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A meeting would be arranged for January 2020.

The meeting closed at 2.54 pm.
