**BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

**PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held: 21st July 2016**

**Present:** Councillor Mike Tebbutt (Chair)

Councillors Ash Davies, Ruth Groome, Ian Jelley and Margaret Talbot.

**16.PP.08 COUNCILLOR ALAN MILLS**

The Chair advised the Committee that Councillor Alan Mills, a substitute member of the Committee, had sadly passed away during the evening of 20th July.

The Committee stood for a minute’s silence in memory of Councillor Mills.

**16.PP.09 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams, Bain, Brown and Rowley. It was noted that Councillor Talbot was acting as a substitute for Councillor Rowley.

**16.PP.10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Groome, Jelley, Talbot and Tebbutt declared personal interests in Item 5 on the agenda (Focused Consultation Comments to Town Centre Boundary Update) as members of town councils in the Borough.

**16.PP.11 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th June 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

It was noted that several issues arising from the minutes would be followed-up in future:-

* Accessible Open Space Maps
* Protection of the Ise Valley (Policy 20)
* Update on the Building Regulations
* Buildings for Life

**16.PP.12 NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT CORE STRATEGY UPDATE**

A verbal update on the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy was given. It was noted that a report would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee. The Joint Planning Committee had adopted the Strategy at its last meeting on 14th July. The Inspector had found that the Strategy was sound, satisfied the requirements and provided a basis for future growth in North Northamptonshire. Main modifications and a number of minor recommendations made by the Inspector were noted by the Committee as set out below:-

* Reference to local energy standards and allowable solutions had been deleted as adjustments had been necessary due to changes in national policy
* The percentage of affordable homes in sustainable urban extensions had been kept at 20% with the proportion to be revisited in future if necessary
* A threshold had been placed on securing affordable housing contributions from development to sites of 11+ dwellings
* If SUEs did not meet 75% of the targeted trajectory for three consecutive years, a partial review of the housing policies within the Plan would be undertaken. This was to ensure that fluctuations in rates of development could occur and provided a way forward for securing continued supply.

It was noted that at Examination other districts had incurred more significant challenges to their site specific policies.

The Inspector had also:-

* agreed and retained policies supporting the network of settlements
* agreed to the distribution of new jobs
* endorsed renewable energy and low carbon energy policy
* in terms of the housing requirement, had agreed with a more manageable 10,400 units allocated (this compared with 13,100 in the previous Plan)
* agreed with a figure of 480 for the distribution of homes in rural areas
* agreed with specific policies in relation to Kettering North, Kettering South employment sites and Rothwell North SUE

It was noted that the Joint Core Strategy would now be subject to a six-week period to allow for any High Court challenge.

It was noted that officers would now be preparing a series of briefing notes and a Members’ Information Evening would take place to update Members. The Joint Core Strategy was available to view via the Joint Planning Unit website, but hard copies would not be published until the time limit for a legal challenge had expired.

**16.PP.13 REPORT ON FOCUSED CONSULTATION COMMENTS TO TOWN CENTRE BOUNDARY UPDATE**

A report was submitted which informed members of the outcome of the focused consultation on draft town centre boundary changes for Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell, and which sought endorsement of subsequent town centre boundaries to be included within the draft full Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan.

Following consideration of a summary of comments received, members welcomed the report. It was noted that the health of town centres had been reported upon at a previous meeting of the Committee and the boundary changes represented only one element of the review of the Part 2 Local Plan.

**RESOLVED** that:-

(i) the findings of the report be noted and agreed; and

(ii) public consultation on revised town centre boundaries be endorsed, along with consultation later this year on other elements of the Plan.

**16.PP.14 MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN UPDATE – FINAL DRAFT PLAN CONSULTATION**

A report was submitted which informed Members of the outcome of the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update: Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan Consultation. Members noted that no further comments were being sought from Kettering Borough Council with respect to the latest changes included in the final draft plan.

The final draft plan had been approved by Northamptonshire County Council, with the six-week public consultation period due to end on 21st July. Comments had only been sought on elements of the plan that had been amended since it was first adopted in October 2014.

It was noted that, following examination of the plan, any changes required to be made to meet the Inspector’s requirements would be consulted upon, with it being anticipated that the Local Plan would be adopted in early 2017.

During debate, members were advised that the Council’s previous concern regarding the requirements of Policy 18 (addressing the impact of proposed minerals and waste development) had been taken into account by incorporating a provision to consider the impact of new waste sites which may be located closed to residential development.

**RESOLVED** that the MWLP final draft plan update be noted and it be agreed that no further comment was required in respect of the document.

**16.PP.15 BROWNFIELD REGISTER – BRIEFING NOTE**

A report was submitted which informed members of the preparation of a Pilot Register of Brownfield Land suitable for housing.

It was noted that the Government was seeking to maximise the numbers of new homes built on brownfield land, and had set a target for 90% of suitable sites to have planning permission for housing by 2020. Sites allocated in qualifying documents, such as local plans, neighbourhood plans or brownfield registers, would be granted permission in principle.

The Brownfield Register was a living document. However, out of 70 local authorities trialling the process, only two had published their Register by the target date of the end of June 2016. The Register for Kettering and the other North Northamptonshire authorities had not yet been published, but was expected to be available soon.

It was noted that the Register was not intended to be a document that would be subject to consultation, as it was meant to be a technical exercise for assessing the credentials of sites in terms of suitability for housing and legitimacy in terms of satisfying various criteria, including the definition in the National Planning Policy Framework of brownfield land.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted ahead of the publication of the Brownfield Register.

*(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.14 pm)*

Signed …………………………………………..

Chair

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