

Local Plan Committee

Wednesday 13 January 2016 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, The Cube, Corby

Councillors present: Councillors Elliston, Beeby, Pengelly, Carratt, Rutt & Keane

12. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rahman, Dady & McEwan, Cllr Keane substituted for Cllr Dady.

13. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any interest they might have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate whether these were prejudicial or non-prejudicial, the nature of the interest and whether they intend to participate in the relevant agenda item. Councillor Pengelly declared a personal non prejudicial interest in anything to do with Storefield and Brookfield.

14. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2015, copies of which had been circulated to Members, be agreed as a correct record.

15. Northamptonshire Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document

The Principal Planner (Local Plan) presented a report seeking approval for Corby Borough Council to adopt the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document 2015.

The SPD had been jointly prepared by all the constituent authorities in Northamptonshire and had involved close working with the Wildlife Trust and Natural England.

The SPD was built on these policies and also explained how biodiversity should be incorporated into the planning process to ensure policy and legislation requirements were best met and best practice achieved. It provided a standard approach for all planning applications and was to be used together with expert ecological assessment of each specific case.

Public consultation had been approved in December 2014 and had taken place in February/March 2015. Following this there had been a few minor alterations for clarity, now that the document had been finalised it could be adopted by the Council, once adopted the SPD would set out the Council procedures and methods for engagement in plan making and planning applications.

Cllr Rutt congratulated officers for a very comprehensive report, he said Corby had been the first to adopt things such a not cutting hedges during the nesting season between March and August, he was disappointed however that waterways in wooded areas were no longer cleared.

RESOLVED that:-

The Northamptonshire Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document be approved.

16. North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Review

This report provided an update to Committee on the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Review. A six week consultation had taken place and on the 31st July 2015 the document was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by a Planning Inspector.

The Inspector held a formal hearing lasting seven days, during this process the Inspector identified areas that required modification and provided the Joint Planning Unit with an opportunity to propose draft wording.

A number of modifications had been endorsed by the JPU in December 2015 and the Principal Planner (Local Plans) had provided as part of his report those modifications which had implications for the Borough, specifically Rockingham Motor Racing Circuit Enterprise Area.

The Officer concluded that various modifications had been discussed with the Inspector during the course of the hearing; the Inspector would have the final say on what modifications would be made to the Joint Core Strategy, a six week consultation would need to be held in order that the Inspector could take account of any further representations prior to providing his final report on the plan.

Councillor Pengelly asked what the main differences were between the Inspectors report modifications and the submitted planJPUs, the Principal Planner said the most significant was the Rockingham Motor Racing Circuit Enterprise Area and changes to the Sustainable Buildings and Allowable Solutions policy Zero Carbon but nothing changed the direction of the plan.

RESOLVED that:-

Members note the progress of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Review.

17. Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update

The report was to update Committee on the Draft Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan for consultation and to provide a response from Corby Borough Council.

Consultations on the issues and options had taken place with public consultation taking place from 14 May 2015 to 9 July 2015. All comments had been assessed and where relevant incorporated into the draft. A summary of comments made by Corby Borough Council and responses by officers from Northamptonshire County Council were set out in the officers report.

In its representation to the Issues and Options consultation the Council emphasised the need to manage the distribution of waste within the County. Because of its industrial nature Corby had more sites in which waste development could be located than other parts of the county.

The proposed amendment to Policy 12 was welcome as it offered a degree of control to manage waste levels in the Borough but the point remained that Corby had a significantly greater scope to accommodate waste development than other growth towns in the county.

RESOLVED that:-

Members support the response to the consultation based on the comments set out in the 'Discussion' section of the officers report but suggested that representations reiterate the requirement for buffer zones to protect residential areas.

18. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.