

CABINET (LOCAL PLAN) COMMITTEE

9 February 2015

Attendance:

Committee Members:

Councillors:

Weston (Chairman) (P)

Godfrey

Tait (P)

Deputy Members:

Councillor Humby (Deputy for Councillor Godfrey)

Other invited Councillors:

J Berry (P)

Evans

Hutchison (P)

Ruffell

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Jeffs

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Read and Scott

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2013 be approved and adopted.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Tait be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Humby declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of the following items due to his role as a County Councillor. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, he remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

Mr Tilbury, Corporate Director, made a personal statement that he was a resident of Alresford and lived in the area covered by the Sun Hill Residents Association and had taken no part in its representation and he did not comment on the representation received at the meeting.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Questions and statements were made under the following item.

5. **DRAFT WINCHESTER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN PART 2: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT AND SITE ALLOCATIONS - UPDATE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION**

(Report CAB2656(LP) refers)

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting five members of the public.

During public participation, Mr R Fowler and Mr P Davies addressed the Committee and their comments are summarised below.

Mr Fowler stated that he represented the Sun Hill Residents' Association in Alresford. In summary, he wished to make the Committee aware of the strength of feeling about the site allocations in New Alresford, as was demonstrated by the submission of in excess of 500 comments, which represented one in ten of the local population. His representation was that the housing needs report steered provision towards one particular site and over-emphasised the requirement for open space (at 20 hectares) and also the need for industrial units and offices (at 5 hectares), when many of the present units were under-occupied. There were also concerns at the impact on amenity for residents from the proposed motorway-style junction off the A31. The dwellings proposed for greenfield site reference 277 were not needed and the remainder of the 380 dwellings should be spread across other Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) sites. He wished to bring to the Committee's attention an alternative plan, which had a lot of support, and he added that New Alresford Town Council had been asked to withdraw its needs report for the reasons outlined above.

In response to Members' questions, the Head of Strategic Planning clarified that the City Council had worked with New Alresford Town Council to establish the needs groups and sought to work with the community, commencing with a public meeting in January 2013. The resultant needs group reports were published in April 2013, prior to an assessment of sites later in 2013, and there was consultation on the proposed sites commencing at the beginning of 2014. While the response to the consultation had been

hostile to the proposals, it was felt that this was only the way forward to meet housing and other needs.

Of the comments received on the draft Local Plan Part 2, which were in excess of 500, not all had been against the Local Plan proposals or for the 'alternative plan' and the comments were still being analysed. The alternative plan proposed by the local group had been received by the Council and would be given due consideration to judge its merits and to consider the issues raised to see if the Local Plan proposals needed to be modified. The resultant proposals would be the subject of publication and consultation in the summer of 2015. It was emphasised that there was a need for the Local Plan to have proposals that were deliverable.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Jeffs sought advice on the timetable for consideration of the proposals for New Alresford following the comments by Mr Fowler.

The Head of Strategic Planning stated that the comments received and recommended approach would be considered in detail by meetings of the Cabinet Local Plan Committee in May/June and would not be subject to further public consultation prior to then. There would be consultation at the next stage, the Pre-Submission Plan.

Mr Davies stated that he was speaking on behalf of the City of Winchester Trust. He asked that in view the high level of representation received from Alresford and Bishops Waltham, whether a separate meeting of the Committee would be held to consider the significant issues of the Winchester Town area.

The Chairman stated that a view on the scheduling of meetings would be taken in consultation with the officers when all comments had been analysed.

The Chairman added that written representations received from Sam Kerr-Smiley regarding New Alresford and Mr Keith Barrett would also be taken into consideration.

In reply to Members' questions, the Head of Strategic Planning explained that the consultation process was as set out in section two of the report. It was the aim to place all the comments received on the Council's website by Friday 13 February. It was commented that comments on the Development Management policies might be brought forward for consideration prior to the 30 March 2015 meeting of the Committee and that the timing of the proposed meetings on 12 March and 30 March may be subject to change to accommodate the business to be transacted following the officers' analysis of the comments and representations received.

The Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the initial feedback and updates be noted and the schedule of meetings as recommended in paragraph 5.2 of the Report to consider the responses in detail be agreed.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 10.45am

Chairman