

CABINET (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK) COMMITTEE

6 December 2006

Attendance:

Committee Members:

Councillors:

Wood (Chairman) (P)

Beckett
Hollingbery

Pearson (P)

Deputy Members in attendance:

Councillors Allgood and Coates

Other Invited Councillors:

Beveridge (P)
Busher (P)
Cook (P)

De Peyer (P)
Jeffs (P)
Sutton (P)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Beckett and Hollingbery.

2. **AGREEMENT OF PROCEDURE FOR INVOLVEMENT OF NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

(Report CAB1360(LDF) refers)

The Chairman emphasised that he intended that both Committee Members and invited Councillors would be fully involved in discussions at the meeting. In addition, other Councillors would be welcome to attend meetings and contribute to the debate (at the discretion of the Chairman), as was the normal practice at committee meetings. It was noted that Ward Councillors would be specifically invited to attend where the subject matter under discussion made this appropriate.

In response to questions, the City Secretary and Solicitor clarified that the current rules relating to Councillors' interests also applied to this meeting. A Councillor would therefore not necessarily have a personal and prejudicial interest simply on the basis that a Report concerned their Ward.

Councillor Busher queried whether deputies could be appointed for the invited Councillors. The Chairman confirmed that although no formal deputies had been appointed, he would allow other Members to take part in place of those specifically invited, where appropriate. However, he agreed to consider the requirement for deputies further and refer back to Cabinet if considered necessary.

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

RESOLVED:

That the procedure for involvement of the public (including interest groups) and non-Committee Members in the work of the Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee be agreed as set out in the Appendix to the Report.

3. **PRESENTATION ON THE PRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

The Committee received a presentation on the general principles behind the Local Development Framework production and how this would be approached in the Winchester District.

The Chief Executive also mentioned the recent publication of the latest Barker Report on streamlining the planning system, which might have implications for the Local Development Framework. However it was too early to know exactly what these might be.

The Chief Executive responded to questions regarding how the production of the Local Development Framework (LDF) would overlap with the current Local Plan Review. He explained that, as each element of the LDF was produced, it would be necessary to specify which section of the Local Plan it would replace. In addition, even before they were finalised, the new documents would gain increasing importance as the different stages of production were reached. Advice would be given to the Planning Development Control Committee on the appropriate weight to be given as the production progressed.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the LDF would have to reflect the composition of the whole District and not just focus on urban areas. The Council's formal partners were members of the Local Strategic Partnership. However, under the LDF "front loading" process (and a requirement of one of the tests of soundness), the Council would be required to engage with as many different interest groups as possible, including "hard to reach" groups.

Members were informed that it was anticipated that consultants would be employed by the end of the year to undertake the technical work regarding the sustainability appraisal. The consultants would produce a statement of the Council's current position regarding sustainability and also its objectives for the future. It was suggested that their work might be of use in engaging with Parish Councils.

In response to questions, the Chief Executive confirmed that documents such as the Landscape Character Assessment and the Biodiversity Action Plan would form part of the Council's evidence base.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation on the production of the Local Development Framework be noted.

4. **WINCHESTER DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – CORE STRATEGY**
(Report CAB1359(LDF) refers)

The Chief Executive highlighted the events planned to be held across the District, as outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the Report. In addition, officers were hoping to attend any other suitable community meetings to be held in this period. For example, the Stanmore Combined Group would be meeting to consider planning and social inclusion issues, which would tie in with information about the Local Development Framework.

A number of Councillors expressed concern that Parish Councils were not yet aware of the far-reaching implications of the new Local Development Framework and that training should therefore be provided at the appropriate level. In addition, the necessity of giving parishes as much notice as possible of the dates and times of the meeting was highlighted. The Committee considered that if the events were to be held in January 2007, Parish Councils should be informed within the next two weeks. The Chief Executive noted this request and commented that the programme might have to be delayed if this proved not to be possible.

The Committee also agreed that the invitation letters to Parish Councils should provide an easily understandable summary of what the events would be considering, and particularly emphasise why it would be important for Parish Councils to be involved.

One Member commented on an informative presentation made to the recent Housing Forum outlining a summary of the housing market assessment. He suggested this type of information could be supplied to Parish Councils, which might generate increased interest in the LDF process and its implications.

Councillor Sutton suggested that as the larger settlement, Colden Common might be a more appropriate venue for an event than Twyford. In addition, Members considered that because of the implications of the Major Development Area at West of Waterlooville, a further event be arranged for Wickham (as well as Whiteley). These changes were agreed.

Councillor Sutton also questioned the status of the Hampshire Gypsy/Traveller Study, because concerns about its contents had been expressed when the Study was presented to Hampshire Authorities. The Chief Executive advised that the Study would be assessed to ascertain whether it met the LDF requirements.

Councillor de Peyer queried whether it might be more appropriate for more than one event to be held in Winchester. He also suggested that the Winchester Town Forum be used as a means of consultation. The Chairman agreed to consider these suggestions further in consultation with the Chief Executive, and that he would contact the Chairman of the Winchester Town Forum.

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

RESOLVED:

That the programme of 'front loading' community events outlined in the Report be agreed, subject to the changes outlined above (including noting the requirement for adequate notice to be given) and further investigation of the suggestions regarding involvement of the Winchester Town Forum.

5. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Committee noted that Report CAB1359(LDF) considered above suggested that meetings would be required to coincide with key stages of the core strategy preparation as follows:

- early February 2007 (to consider feedback from community engagement events);
- late March 2007 (to consider initial issues identified as a result of front loading);
- late May (to consider draft issues and options report and draft sustainability appraisal, prior to reporting to Cabinet).

RESOLVED:

That the date of the next meeting be agreed for Wednesday 7 February 2007 at 9.30am in the King Charles Suite, Guildhall, Winchester.

The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 10.50am

Chairman