

**Local Planning
Executive Advisory Panel**

Meeting Notes

**Council Chamber, The Symington Building,
Adam & Eve Street, Market Harborough**

Wednesday 2nd September 2015

Commencing: 2.00 pm

Councillors Present: Galton, Dr Hill, Holyoak, King (Chair), Mrs Page, Rickman (substitute for Hall) & Tomlin

Officers Present: D. Atkinson (DA), C. Brown (CB), B. Jolly (BJ), T. Nelson (TN) & S. Pointer (SP)

| Item | Action |
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| <p>1. Apologies for Absence Received from Councillor Hall.</p> | |
| <p>2. Notes of the Previous Meeting The notes of the meeting held on 1 July 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman</p> | |
| <p>3. Matters Arising There were no matters arising from the notes that were not otherwise on the agenda.</p> | |
| <p>4. Project Highlight Report and Project Programme</p> <p>SP introduced the report. The status of the project was 'green' (on target with the plan timetable).</p> <p>The Public Consultation was due to be initiated on 18 September, and would run for a period of six weeks.</p> <p>It was noted that the Local Plan Options and Consultation paper had been approved by Council on 27 July.</p> | |
| <p>5. Local Plan Options Consultation Paper</p> <p>a) List of Changes</p> <p>As part of the Council approval for the Local Plan Options and Consultation, it was agreed that any remaining changes would be approved by the Corporate Director of Community Services in consultation with Councillor King.</p> <p>A table that depicted each of the changes was circulated to Members. It was noted that these did not lead to any tangible changes to the options being put forward.</p> <p>It was reported that a copy of the revised Local Plan, which included each of the changes would be emailed to Members of the Panel tomorrow. Members were asked to review the documentation and advise Councillor King or SP of any</p> | <p>SP</p> <p>SP</p> |

comments by Monday 7 September. It was then intended to obtain final sign-off by Wednesday 9 September.

It was questioned whether the government had developed a clear, strategic policy to impose limitations on development in rural areas. It was noted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had issued an outline statement, but the detail behind this was awaited. If a stringent policy was issued, then it was acknowledged that the Council's policies may need to be adapted.

b) Engagement and Communications Plan

It was confirmed that the following series of public surgeries, where information and advice would be available, had been arranged :

- Kibworth – 23 September – 12noon – 7pm
- Mkt Harborough – The Council Chamber – 30 September - 12noon – 7pm
- Lutterworth Leisure Centre – 7 October – 12noon – 7pm
- Scraptoft Village Hall – 14 October – 12noon – 7pm

It was noted that the latter of these was scheduled held on the date of the next Local Planning Executive Advisory Panel, and as a result, officers agreed to seek an alternative date for this particular session. Once this had been clarified, officers agreed to publicise the series of 'surgeries'. It was also pointed out that no additional workshops would be arranged solely for elected members.

TN

Following a number of queries, officers confirmed that all consultative materials would be available at all Customer Service locations and at all libraries. This would be clearly communicated via the local media, and arrangements were in place to make available the materials to those who could not access them directly.

In response to a further query, it was confirmed that consideration would be given to requests for officers to attend parish council meetings as part of the consultation process, but it was acknowledged that due to resource implications, this was not certain and would be considered on a case by case basis, and it may be more feasible to brief Chairs of Parish Council's appropriately. Officers encouraged Members to promote the series of 'surgeries' to constituents.

c) Sustainability Appraisal Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

SP explained that a key component of reviewing the options was the sustainability appraisal. It was noted that the consultants had issued an initial draft of their findings to officers and this was to be presented to members by the end of the w/c 7 September. The findings would also be made available publicly amongst the consultation materials that are to be displayed.

SP stated that one likely recommendation arising from this work was the need to develop a more bespoke environmental assessment of Magna Park. Given the scale of its impacts, work was being taken in collaboration with other relevant local authorities to ensure that the overall impact is built into the appraisal.

d) Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

Members were reminded that all council policies were required to be accompanied by an EIA to recognise the impacts upon particular groups of people.

It was noted that the EIA was being established and details would be issued along with the consultative materials. A fresh analysis of equalities implications would be performed as each stage of the plan was considered.

In respect of the overall recommendations, Members agreed to note the ongoing work relating to finalising the Local Plan Options document for publication and the associated supporting documents.

Furthermore, the Members of the Panel noted the details of the Consultation arrangements.

6. Green Wedge Review – Draft Technical Update 2015

The Panel considered the Green Wedge Review Draft Technical Update 2015; a document that would form part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan Options Consultation.

Officers drew attention to the two significant proposed changes; namely to extend the Leicester/Scraptoft Green Wedge boundary to incorporate the Edith Cole Memorial Park to strengthen its recreation function and to exclude the eastern half of the Coles Nursery site and the properties on Uppingham Road from the Thurnby/Leicester/Oadby Green Wedge boundary.

It was questioned whether the term 'Green Wedge' was seen as the most appropriate language. The Chair explained that the terminology would be considered following the consultation exercise.

The Panel agreed that the document should be appropriately marked as a draft document for when the consultation process is initiated. DA

The Panel further requested that the document include a greater emphasis on the role and function of separation areas. Officers agreed to include a link within the body of the report to another document which would commit officers to undertake a piece of research in relation to separation areas. DA

The Panel noted the findings of the Green Wedge Review: Draft Technical Update.

The Panel also agreed the Draft Technical Update for publication on the website as a background document for the new Local Plan and supporting the Options Consultation.

7. Other Local Plans (North Northamptonshire and North West Leicestershire) – Verbal Report

SP provided a verbal overview in relation to the proposed local plans of two of the Council's neighbouring authorities.

Arising from the discussion, it was noted that North West Leicestershire District Council were proposing to allocate greater level of housing within their plan to that identified from their housing market assessment. This was proposed as a

mechanism to absorb anticipated employment growth. SP stated that officers had made representations on the matter; expressing a view that there was an element of risk in assuming that all job growth would be absorbed within the relevant local district.

10. Dates of Future Meetings

- 14 October 2015
- 25 November 2015

The meeting closed at 3.33 pm.