

Minutes of the **SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** held in the Committee Room of Boston Borough Council Offices, West Street, Boston on Friday 27 April 2012.

PRESENT:

South Holland District Councillors: B Alcock, R Gambba-Jones, H R Johnson, F Biggadike, C J T H Brewis and R M Rudkin

Boston Borough Councillors: P Bedford, C Brotherton, R Leggott, F Pickett, O Snell

Lincolnshire County Councillors: E Poll, M Brookes, C N Worth

Paul Jackson, Planning Manager for Breckland and South Holland District Councils;
Steve Lumb, Head of Planning and Strategy, Boston Borough Council;
Gary Alexander, Joint Policy Unit Manager;
Phil Norman, Planning Policy Officer, South Holland District Council;
Hannah Albans, Planning Policy Officer, South Holland District Council;
Amanda Taylor, Member Services Officer, South Holland District Council;
Christopher Holliday, Deputy Manager of Joint Policy Unit Boston Borough Council;
and
Jim Scarsbrook, Consultant.

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was none.

12. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2011 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following amendments to page 2, minute 4/11 – that the words ‘Local Plan Steering Group’ be amended to ‘Joint Strategic Planning Committee’.

The Joint Policy Unit Manager advised that the revised final version of the Standing Orders had been appended to the minutes for members’ attention.

13. SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Consideration was given to the report of the Joint Policy Unit Manager which sought approval of a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for South East Lincolnshire.

The Joint Policy Unit Manager referred to the draft SCI which was attached as Appendix A within the report and advised that various views had been expressed following consultation on the document, which resulted in minor presentational alterations.

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Councillor R Gambba-Jones reported that he had recently attended a meeting with the South Holland Chamber of Commerce where concerns had been raised that members felt the visioning statement deadline was 30 April 2012 and they had not been consulted. He explained that in addition to having a list of statutory consultees it was important to ensure that the groups/organisations closest to the authorities be involved. Councillor B Alcock suggested that where areas did not have Parish Councils, their local Chamber of Commerce groups should be used. The Statutory Consultation list formed Appendix 1 within Appendix A.

Councillor Gambba-Jones suggested that social media (twitter, facebook, etc) be used as a method for consulting with people, as it was important to use every method available.

The Deputy Manager of Joint Policy Unit advised that the consultation list covered over 600 groups, including small business and hard-to-reach groups, which was continually being updated. He added that it was the aim of the Planning Authority to try and engage with everyone, which was very difficult to do. Councillor R Leggott suggested that relevant drainage boards be included within the list of consultees. The Chairman requested that the consultation list be added to the website.

The Joint Policy Unit Manager referred to Appendix 2 within Appendix A, Boston Borough Council's Code on the Publicity of Planning Applications, and advised that this document was the final version and therefore the word 'draft' could be removed.

- DECISION:**
- a) That the content of the report and draft Statement of Community Involvement be noted;
 - b) That the method of consultation be reviewed to include the use of social media;
 - c) That the list of consultees be amended, as discussed, and added to the website; and
 - d) That the draft Statement of Community Involvement be adopted, with the agreed amendments.

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14. NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)

Consideration was given to the report of the Joint Policy Unit Manager which outlined the contents of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Government published the NPPF on 27 March 2012. The NPPF ran to approximately 50 pages making it far shorter than the 47 existing documents that it replaced.

Members noted that the NPPF re-emphasises that in planning law the Development Plan takes the lead role, and that applications must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicated otherwise. Therefore Local Planning Authorities would need to ensure that adopted policy was properly reflective of the principles of sustainable development.

Concerns were raised that there may be challenges from other authorities regarding the 'Duty to Cooperate' (to deal with cross-boundary issues), which the Local Planning Authority would need to demonstrate had been adequately undertaken in preparing its Local Plan documents. Councillor Gambba-Jones stated that the Local Planning Authorities would need to be robust in working together.

Councillor Gambba-Jones referred to the footnotes within the NPPF regarding the supplementary information and technical guidance, which he asked members to note.

DECISION: That the report, and issues arising from the NPPF, be noted.

15. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

Update on Visioning Exercise

The Deputy Manager of Joint Policy Unit reported that the visioning exercise had been publicised online and over 600 different individual and group interests had been consulted. He noted a response rate of 7 - 8%.

Councillor Gambba-Jones queried whether consideration was being given to possibly running an open forum, an option where people could access the website on an ongoing basis in order to provide feedback. He suggested that posters be dispatched to public places, libraries, hospitals etc, to advertise and encourage community engagement.

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Local Plan Steering Group

The Joint Policy Unit Manager reported that a meeting of the Local Plan Steering Group was scheduled on 1 June 2012, at which items of evidence and results from the visioning exercise would be presented.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed – Annual General Meeting, Council Chamber, South Holland District Council, Priory Road, Spalding.

(The Meeting ended at 11.20 p.m.)

(End of Minutes)