

Planning & Economic Development Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Minutes

Commencing
6pm 19 August 2003
Bourne Hill
Salisbury

Present

Councillor P D Edge (Chairman)
Councillor R Britton
Councillor A J A Brown-Hovelt
Councillor P Clegg (for Councillor I R Tomes)
Councillor S R Fear (for Councillor Ms S C Mallory)
Councillor M A Hewitt
Councillor S A Willan

In Attendance

H Collar (SDC)
D Crook (SDC)

Apologies

Councillor Mrs E Chettleburgh (Vice Chairman)
Councillor G E Jeans
Councillor C A Spencer

Public/Observers

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6. Public Questions/Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

7. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15 July 2003 were **agreed** as being a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

9. Panel Forward Work Programme 2003/04

Members **noted** the report of the Policy Director with the responsibility for Planning & Economic Development Overview & Scrutiny, together with the fact that Panel's proposed forward work programme remained subject to ratification by the Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

With reference to paragraph 3.1. of the report, Members **agreed** that, until the initial Review reports (yet to be drafted by Officers) had been considered, the breadth, depth and length of (plus the resources required for) each Review could not be determined. Members acknowledged that the resource allocations listed in the report (at paragraphs 3.1.1. – 3.1.4.) related to the drafting of the initial officer Review reports and not to the carrying out of the various reviews themselves.

10. Scrutiny Review of the 'fit' between the 'New Planning Framework' and the needs of the Business Community – scoping paper

Following consideration of the Scoping Paper report of the Policy Director with the responsibility for Planning & Economic Development Overview & Scrutiny, Members noted that the late start date

proposed for the Review (ie November 2003) was owing to a delay, by the Government, in publishing legislation relating to the 'New Planning Framework'; information considered to be key to the Review.

Members **agreed** that the Review should, specifically, concentrate on the Local Plan and Planning Policy issues as raised by the Business Community (including hospitals, schools, doctors surgeries etc.) during the Scrutiny Review of SWEP, and as detailed in paragraph 2.1.1. of the Scoping Paper report. It was also **agreed** that the findings of the Review should be presented to the Cabinet as such. That is, conclusions drawn from considering the issues as seen from the perspective of a single 'interest group'.

It was **agreed** that the aims of the Review should be to :-

i/. identify the gaps (or perceived gaps) between what the Business Community considers the Planning Process (that is, the Process in-the-round; from the formulating of the Local Plan to the application of Planning Policy Guidance when considering individual planning applications) should be providing for them and what the Council considers the Business Community's role in the Planning Process is;

ii/. consider what process (or processes) might be adopted that would allow the Business Community to inform the Council of its planning-related requirements;

iii/. identify how the 'New Planning Framework', when introduced, could be applied to effect the most satisfactory outcomes for both the Council *and* the Business Community; and

iv/. identify how, in the process of adopting the New Planning Framework, the Business Community might become better informed about Planning issues from the perspective of a local authority; not least about the constraints and regulations imposed by central government.

In **agreeing** the above, the following points were raised by Members :-

- the central strand of the Review should be to focus on the issues of conflict that exist between the Council and the Business Community (and not specifically on either rural or urban/suburban planning issues);
- the Review should include consideration of: the most appropriate means by which the Business Community might access and influence the Planning Process; and how planning-related frictions between the Business Community and the Council might best be addressed/overcome/prevented.
- that it should be acknowledged in the Review that Salisbury is currently at a 'cross-roads' in terms of onwards development of the built environment and that a decision requires to be made as to what sort of area Salisbury seeks to be before any Development Strategy is agreed. For example, should Salisbury seek to retain it's current 'shape and character' then a Strategy to restrict development (and to deal with the consequences of such restriction) would need to be formulated. Alternatively, should Salisbury seek to expand in terms of housing, business, leisure and transport facilities, then a Strategy (which also delineates the degree of development to be permitted and how to deal with the consequences of development growth) will need to be formulated. In short, a Salisbury (the 'shape and character' of) 'Vision Statement' is required.

To conclude, it was **agreed** that David Crook, Policy Director, would write to Panel Members seeking five volunteers to set up a Working Group to progress the above Scrutiny Review (to commence in

November 2003). David Crook also **agreed** to write to Panel Members to determine the day of the week on which full Panel meetings should be held in future.

11. Dates of Next Meetings

The forward meeting dates of the Panel were (subject to agreement on the preferred day of the week being reached) **agreed** as follows :-

- Tuesday 16 September 2003, commencing 1800hrs (cancelled subsequent to the meeting)
- Tuesday 14 October 2003, commencing 1800hrs (provisional)
- Tuesday 11 November 2003, commencing 1800hrs (provisional)
- Tuesday 9 December 2003, commencing 1800hrs (provisional)

The meeting closed at 1900hrs.