

Minutes

Meeting of : Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Meeting held in : Meeting Room, City Hall, Salisbury

Date : Monday 30 September 2008

Commencing at : 6.00 pm

Present

District Councillors: C Spencer (Chairman), L Randall (Vice Chairman), J Holt, G Jeans, J King, J Launchbury, J Spencer

Apologies: Councillors R Beattie, J Noeken, J Walsh, and G Wright

Councillor I Mitchell was also present and contributed to the debate but did not vote.

Officers: J Cameron (Senior Planning Officer), S Hughes (Senior Planning Officer), P Trenell (Democratic Services Officer)

90. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

91. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

92. Minutes:

Resolved: that the minutes of the meetings held on 19 May 2008 and 15 September 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

93. Declarations of Interest:

There were none.

94. Chairman's Announcements:

The panel expressed their sadness at the death of Councillor Simon Howarth and extended their sympathy and condolences to his family.

95. Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West – Draft Responses to Secretary of State Proposed Changes:

The panel considered the previously circulated report of the Senior Planning Officer for Forward Planning and Conservation and formulated their responses to the officer recommendations set out at paragraph 10.1 on page 9 of the report.

Recommendation A

Resolved:

- 1) The level of growth proposed for the Salisbury Housing Market Area should not be accepted as there is significant concern over the statistics and assumptions used in reaching this figure;
- 2) With regards to predicted occupancy rates up to 2026, the Regional Assembly should request confirmation from the Office for National Statistics about the upwards trend indicated by recent figures. If the trend is confirmed then steps should be taken to revise the targets accordingly;
- 3) That the council's Forward Planning and Transportation Unit also investigate the upwards trend in occupancy rates referred to above in advance of submitting the council's response to the current consultation on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy;
- 4) The draft Regional Spatial Strategy is predicated on the assumption of strong growth. With the current concerns about credit, banking and funding it is important that the growth forecasts are revised as soon as possible so that realistic targets, rather than optimistic targets, are available as the basis for further planning;
- 5) Any variation to the proposed growth level should be included in any partial review activity which may take place subsequently.

Recommendation B

Resolved:

- 1) The Secretary of State's recommendations relating to Policy A should be supported. The removal from Policy B & C of the reference to the need for authorities to assess the role and function of settlements should be challenged. The rejection of policy C2 should be supported.

Recommendation C

Resolved:

- 1) An objection should be raised to the proposed changes to Policies SD1 to 4 and Policies G and RE5 for the reasons set out in section 6 of this report;
- 2) Policy G should be reinstated.

Recommendation D

Resolved:

- 1) Regarding infrastructure (Policy D), Salisbury District Council does not approve of the loss of emphasis on ensuring the delivery of infrastructure and believes that the original wording at pages 49-50 should be reinstated;
- 2) The council largely supports the proposed changes to policies E, F, H and I.

Recommendation E

Resolved:

- 1) The routes for freight set out in the Regional Freight Map should be reinstated rather than the Primary Route Network and corridors should be amended to reflect north/south connections;
- 2) The A303T is identified as a corridor of regional importance. If it is to perform this function urgent improvements are necessary to address capacity issues;
- 3) The remaining proposed changes to the Transport Section of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy and the move to an outcomes focus are supported.

Recommendation F

Resolved:

- 1) There are no significant concerns about the Proposed Changes to Policy H1.

Recommendation G

Resolved:

- 1) Policy ES2 'Providing for Employment Land and Premises' should be strengthened by referring to the need for collaboration across Local Authority Boundaries.

Recommendation H

Resolved:

- 1) The panel note that there has been no briefing or committee discussion on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy throughout the LDF process. This has prevented councillors making a genuine contribution.

Recommendation I

Resolved:

- 1) In the event that Cabinet does not approve any of the above recommendations as part of the council's response to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy they should be submitted directly as a response from the Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny panel.

*The meeting closed at 20:08
Public in attendance: 0*