

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 January 2012

Present:

Councillor K H Turner (Chairman)
Councillor S Y Goss
Councillor I R Melhuish
Councillor M A Smith

Councillor C Morgan
Councillor A F Knight
Councillor K J Ross

Members in Attendance:

Councillor A P Hadley
Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor D J Sanders

Councillor K M Mills
Councillor D D Ross

Officers in Attendance:

Martin Wilsher, Principal Planning Officer, LDF
Toby Clempson, Principal Planning Officer, LDF
Stuart Todd, Freelance Planning Policy Officer
Krystyna Kowalewska, Meeting Administrator

LD22 Apologies for Absence

Ian Timms, Group Manager Housing and Community.

LD23 Minutes

(Minutes of the Local Development Panel held on 18 October 2011 – circulated with the Agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Development Panel held on 18 October 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

Following this item, the Principal Planning Officer (T Clempson) brought to Members' attention the proposed additional policies and amendments to the draft preferred strategy in response to the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Local Plan (a draft policy amendment paper was circulated at the meeting).

It was proposed by Councillor K J Ross and seconded by Councillor C Morgan to include the amendments, set out in the draft policy amendment paper, as part of the draft Local Plan consultation process. On being put to the vote the proposal was carried.

RESOLVED that the amendments arising from the Habitat Regulations Assessment be subject to public consultation together with the Local Plan Preferred Strategy, with a view to incorporating them into the Publication

Draft Local Plan, subject to the consideration of any representations made and the decision making process of the Council.

LD24 Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a County, Parish or Town Council:

Name	Minute No	Description of Interest	Personal or Prejudicial	Action Taken
Cllr K H Turner	All Items	Brompton Ralph	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Councillor S Y Goss	All Items	Quantock Vale	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Councillor C Morgan	All Items	Quantock Vale	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Councillor P H Murphy	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke
Councillor K J Ross	All Items	Dulverton	Personal	Spoke and Voted

In addition, Councillor M A Smith declared a personal interest relating to Item 5 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Study, as she was a member of the Transition Group for Minehead and Alcombe and a member of Forum 21.

LD25 Public Participation

No member of the public had requested to speak on any item on the agenda.

LD26 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Study

(Report No. WSC 19/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Study forms a key part of the emerging Local Plan evidence base. The report provided Panel Members with background to the study including a summary of the study's main headlines.

The Freelance Planning Policy Officer presented to Members a summary of the main findings of the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Study. He stressed that the study had been undertaken to provide a robust evidence base for the emerging Local Plan and that it was not a Council strategy.

During the lengthy debate, the following points were raised:

- Policies to encourage developers of new build properties to provide energy efficiency solutions should be introduced.

- Other suggested efficiency measures to save energy and CO2 emissions that were highlighted included the use of greywater recycling systems, gasification, tidal and hydro power, and anaerobic digestion.
- In order to develop the general public's interest a more interesting, dynamic and readable report should be published on the Council's website.

It was proposed by Councillor K J Ross and seconded by Councillor C Morgan to publish a synopsis of the study on the Council's website which would contain a link to the main study. On being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED.

RESOLVED (1) that the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Study and its findings be endorsed, as a key element of the Local Plan evidence base.

RESOLVED (2) that the publication of a synopsis of the Study on the Council's website, including a link to the full Study, be approved.

LD27 Town and Village Centres Study

(Report No. WSC 20/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The Town and Village Centres Study forms a key part of the emerging Local Plan evidence base. The report provided Panel Members with background to the study including a summary of the study's main headlines.

The report was presented by the Freelance Planning Policy Officer who advised Members of the main findings of the study and informed that it had been undertaken to provide an evidence base for the emerging Local Plan. He reported that the study comprised of an economic health check of towns and villages, identified qualitative issues and contained a quantitative needs assessment which identified the future retail demands and needs of the town and village centres.

Councillor I R Melhuish proposed the recommendations in the report and the proposal was seconded by Councillor B Heywood.

RESOLVED (1) that the Town and Village Centres Study and its findings be endorsed, as a key element of the Local Plan evidence base.

RESOLVED (2) that the publication of the Study on the Council's website be approved.

LD28 The Localism Act 2011

The Principal Planning Officer (M Wilsher) provided a verbal update on the planning elements of the Localism Act 2011. He advised that not all the associated documentation had materialised and therefore it was unclear as to when and how the Localism Act 2011 would be implemented. He informed that as soon as the information was made available the Panel would be notified.

LD29 A Plain English Guide to the consultation on the West Somerset Local Plan Preferred Strategy

(A copy of the Plain English Guide, circulated with the Agenda).

This item was presented to the Panel as an information only item. Members were supportive of the Guide and requested that it be circulated as a newsletter to members of the public.

The meeting closed at 5.08 pm.