

Minutes

Local Development Framework Panel

8th September 2011

Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
D L Bebb	Yes	Lady Newton	Yes
G Butland	Apologies	Mrs W D Scattergood	Yes
A V E Everard	Yes	C Siddall	Yes
M C M Lager	Apologies	Miss M Thorogood	Yes
J T McKee	Yes	R G Walters	Yes

Councillors Mann and Ramage were also in attendance for all items in the public session.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

INFORMATION: The following interests were declared:

Councillor McKee declared a personal interest in agenda item 9, Growth Area Funding – Update, as a Board Member of Braintree Enterprise Acorn Unit (BEAU).

Councillor Walters declared a personal interest in agenda item 9, Growth Area Funding – Update, as an Essex County Council representative on the Board of BEAU.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, all Members remained in the meeting for all the items, unless stated otherwise, and took part in the debate and decision thereon.

10. MINUTES

DECISION: That the minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Panel held on 22nd June 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11. QUESTION TIME

INFORMATION: One statement was made which is listed in the Appendix.

12. INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON THE CORE STRATEGY AND PROPOSED ADOPTION OF THE CORE STRATEGY INCORPORATING CHANGES

DECISION: That it be recommended to Council:

1. That the changes to the Core Strategy set out in the Inspector's Report, which are contained in the Appendices to the report be approved.

2. That the Council adopts the Core Strategy incorporating these changes and that the Council applies for a certificate of conformity for the Core Strategy with the National Planning Policy Framework, when the Framework is approved.

REASON FOR THE DECISION: To recommend that the Council should adopt the Core Strategy incorporating the changes.

13. **NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK**

INFORMATION: Members noted that the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Housing and Development is planning to respond to the Government's consultation on the Policy Framework.

Members expressed concern at Government proposals which could see small numbers of unelected persons representing neighbourhoods promoting more development than is set out in the Local Plan. Concern was also expressed that neighbourhoods could grant permission using neighbourhood development orders. Those groups may have no structure or governance arrangements and in effect, may have no legitimacy.

Members also noted a contradiction in paragraphs 3.17 and 3.18 in the report. Paragraph 3.17 advises that Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with strategic policies of the Local Plan. However, paragraph 3.18 states that where there is a conflict, the policies in a Neighbourhood Plan take precedence over existing policies in the Local Plan.

Members also had concerns at proposals which could see a position where objections may not be raised to communications infrastructure.

Members endorsed the officer comments in the report and agreed that the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Housing and Development be informed of the Panel's views for consideration in her response to the Government's consultation. Members also suggested that in addition to responding to the consultation, the Cabinet Member might wish to write to Greg Clark, Minister for Planning, DCLG, setting out the Council's views.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

DECISION: That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the Act.

Although the following item was taken in Private Session the Minutes do not contain any confidential information and are therefore admissible in the public domain.

14. **GROWTH AREA FUNDING – UPDATE**

DECISION:

1. That the progress report on the Growth Area Fund programme be noted.

That it be **recommended to Cabinet and to Council:**

2. That the re-allocation of capital and revenue funding, as detailed in the report be approved.

REASON FOR THE DECISION: To recommend approval of funding for Growth Area Funding projects.

15. **BRAINTREE BRANCH LINE – SOCIO ECONOMIC STUDY**

DECISION: That growth area funding be approved and that powers be delegated to the Director, Sustainable Development, in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Development Framework Panel, to appoint consultants to undertake the Braintree Branch Line Socio Economic Study.

REASON FOR THE DECISION: To agree delegated powers for the appointment of consultants for the study.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.18pm.

Councillor R G Walters

(Chairman)

Local Development Framework Panel Meeting, 8th September, Questions Asked/Statements Made

Speaker	Subject
Fred Sheldrake, Braintree	Item 5a, Inspector's Report On The Core Strategy And Proposed Adoption Of The Core Strategy Incorporating Changes