

Minutes



Local Development Framework Panel

6th April 2011

Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
G Butland	Yes	H J Messenger	Apologies
A V E Everard	Yes	Lady Newton	Apologies
N R H O Harley	Apologies	Mrs W D Scattergood	Yes
M C M Lager	Yes (from 6.12pm)	Miss M Thorogood	Yes
N G McCrea	Yes	R G Walters	Yes

Councillor R Ramage was also in attendance from 6.37pm.

41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

INFORMATION: The following declaration of interest was made:

Councillor R G Walters declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10 – Growth Area Funding - Update as a Director of Braintree Enterprise Acorn Units. Councillor Walters remained in the meeting, but he did not vote on this item.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Walters remained in the meeting.

42 MINUTES

DECISION: The Minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Panel held on 16th February 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

43 QUESTION TIME

INFORMATION: There were no questions asked or statements made.

44 RAILWAY FOOTBRIDGE – MOTTS LANE, WITHAM

INFORMATION: The Chairman was pleased to welcome Mr Jonathan James of Network Rail to the meeting. Mr James gave a presentation on a proposal to provide a footbridge over the railway line at Motts Lane, Witham.

Mr James stated that whilst the existing pedestrian and bridleway crossing was safe to use, it had been classified as being 'at risk'. Mr James stated that initially consideration had been given to providing a bridge. However, as this would have significant cost implications it was proposed instead to construct a footbridge suitable for use by

pedestrians and cyclists. It was proposed that the existing bridleway status of the crossing should be removed. Mr James reported that Network Rail had allocated £1.5m to the scheme and that a contribution would also be made from the Growth Area Fund. A study was currently underway to calculate the estimated cost. Outline drawings of the proposal were circulated at the meeting.

It was noted that the existing level crossing was used by people to gain access to the nearby industrial areas and that usage could increase if proposals for the development of further housing were to go ahead. Members requested that details of the estimated number of pedestrians who would use the footbridge should be provided. It was noted that there had been fatalities at the existing crossing and that it would close once the new footbridge was constructed. Members were advised that the timetable for implementation of the proposal would be dependent on the time taken to deal with the removal of bridleway rights.

The Chairman thanked Mr James for his presentation and for attending the meeting.

DECISION: The presentation was noted.

45 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME - UPDATE

INFORMATION: Members of the Panel were reminded that the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required the Council to produce a Local Development Scheme. This was a project management document which showed which Development Plan Documents the Council proposed to produce and the timetable for doing so. It was reported that the current Scheme had been reviewed in February 2010, but that it had now been revised further to include an updated timetable. A copy of the draft Scheme was attached to the Agenda.

In discussing the Scheme and the proposed consultation arrangements, Members agreed that a seminar should be arranged specifically for Members of the District Council's Planning Committee. A Member referred also to the importance of local opinion and the need to have regard to relevant views put forward by Town and Parish Councils.

DECISION: That the Local Development Scheme 2011-2014 and the proposed timetable for the production of Development Plan Documents be approved.

46 CORE STRATEGY – FOCUSED AND MINOR CHANGES

INFORMATION: Members were reminded that at the last meeting the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Chairman of the Panel, had been authorised to approve further changes to the wording of the Core Strategy. This was to enable any changes to be published and representations made prior to the submission of Hearing statements.

Several changes had been identified relating mainly to the revocation of the East of England Plan; sewerage and waste water infrastructure requirements in response to the conclusions of the Stage 2 Water Cycle Study; housing provision for the Panfield Lane, Braintree growth location; the affordable housing policy; and the removal of the affordable housing definition from paragraph 5.17 in view of the Government's current review of the definition.

Details of the proposed focused and minor changes were attached as an Appendix to the Agenda report. The changes were subject to public consultation during the period 18th March 2011 to 18th April 2011.

DECISION: That the proposed changes to the Core Strategy Submission Draft and the further consultation period on those changes be noted.

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.

47 **GROWTH AREA FUNDING – UPDATE**

INFORMATION: Members of the Panel were reminded of the amount of capital and revenue funding which had been awarded to Braintree District Council from the Growth Area Fund to support the delivery of new housing and employment and associated infrastructure. Priorities for the expenditure and allocation of the funding had been agreed by the Panel at previous meetings and an update report on the programme was attached as an Appendix to the report.

Members were requested to approve the specific allocation of revenue funding to facilitate the merger of business support services in the District. The merger was required to progress the extension of Enterprise Units across the District and to offer a comprehensive business support service.

DECISION:

- (1) That the progress report on the Growth Area Fund programme be noted.
- (2) That the allocation of revenue funding to facilitate the merger of business support services in the District be approved.

At the close of the meeting, Councillor McCrea stated that this was the last meeting of the Panel for which he would be Chairman. Councillor McCrea thanked Members and Officers for their work and input to the Local Development Framework process. In response, Councillor Butland endorsed these comments and he thanked Councillor McCrea for his Chairmanship.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 6.48pm.

Councillor N G McCrea

(Chairman)