

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** held in the Committee Room, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston on Friday 8th March 2019 at 11.00 am.

PRESENT

Chairman: R Gambba-Jones

Vice-Chairman: Claire Rylott

B Alcock

M Cooper

A Austin

P E Coupland

S Ransome

M Brookes

Also present: F Biggadike, D Brown and M D Seymour

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Colin Brotherton; Councillor Michael Cooper was present as Councillor Brotherton's substitute.

In attendance: Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Director & Monitoring Officer) (BBC), Strategic Planning Manager (SHDC), Forward Planning Officer (BBC), Senior Democratic Services Officer (BBC)

26. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

27. **MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee held on 29 June 2018.

AGREED: That the minutes should be amended as follows:

- 20. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN should read "**RESOLVED:** That Councillor R Gambba-Jones be elected Chairman of the Joint Committee for 2018/19."; and
- 21. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN should read "**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Claire Rylott be elected Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee for 2018/19."

28. **CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON THE ADOPTION OF THE SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN 2011-2036**

The Strategic Planning Manager (SHDC) and Forward Planning Officer (BBC) introduced the report, outlining the background to the production of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036 and the stages of public consultation undertaken through to issue of the Inspectors' Report on 29th January 2019.

Before discussing the Inspectors' findings and recommendations, Members were reminded of the purpose, content and status of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036. Once adopted it would become part of the statutory development plan for South East Lincolnshire (alongside the adopted Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan) and replace the Boston Borough and South Holland Local Plans.

The Local Plan included 36 policies, mostly written in a criteria-based format to guide decision-makers on future planning applications for the area. The policies sought to ensure that new development would meet the needs of the community; preserve the area's unique natural and historic environment; and be safe and well-designed, and supported by the necessary infrastructure.

The Local Plan allocated nearly 127 hectares of land for development for employment uses; nearly 450 hectares for development to provide new homes; and sought the delivery of parts of a distributor road for Boston and a relief road for Spalding.

The Inspectors' Report, set out in Appendix A to the report, concluded that:

- Consultation arrangements for the Plan's production were adequate and in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement;
- The Joint Committee had engaged constructively, actively and on an on-going basis throughout the preparation of the Plan to ensure that cross-boundary issues had been properly considered and addressed and, consequently, the Duty to Co-operate had been met;
- The Public Sector Equality Duty had been met;
- The Local Plan had been prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme;
- An adequate Sustainability Appraisal had been carried out throughout the preparation of the Plan; and
- The Plan achieved the statutory objectives of relevant legislation and complied with all relevant legal requirements.

However, the Inspectors' Report concluded that the Plan had a number of deficiencies, which meant it could not be adopted as submitted. In order to make the Plan sound, legally compliant and capable of adoption, the Inspectors recommended that 38 Main Modifications be made to the version of the Plan submitted to the Secretary of State on 23rd June 2017.

The Modifications recommended by the Inspectors were raised as part of the Examination's hearing sessions or through Statements of Common Ground with participants. These Main Modifications were discussed and subsequently approved by the Joint Committee on 29th June 2018. A consolidated Sustainability Appraisal and two very minor modifications were the subject of public consultation between 30th November 2018 and 14th January 2019.

The officers explained that the Joint Committee had to accept all the Main Modifications in full if it wished to adopt the Local Plan.

Legislation allowed a local planning authority to prepare a schedule of 'Additional Modifications' for inclusion in the adopted Local Plan, which were not considered or approved by the Inspectors and did not have to be subject to public consultation. A recommended set of Additional Modifications were set out in Appendix B. The Joint Committee was free to reject all or some of these and still proceed to adopt the Local Plan or include further Additional Modifications provided they did not materially affect the Local Plan's policies or proposals.

The text of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036 was attached at Appendix C to the report, incorporating all the Main Modifications recommended by the Inspectors and the Additional Modifications suggested by the Joint Policy Unit and this was the document the Joint Committee was being asked to adopt.

The Policies Map, attached at Appendix D, included 72 Inset Maps illustrating geographically the application of the Local Plan's policies which had been updated to reflect the contents of the Main Modifications and the Additional Modifications. The Joint Committee was also being asked to approve these updated maps.

In conclusion, the report pointed out that the Committee could not decide to accept some of the Inspectors modifications and reject others; it had to decided either to adopt the Local Plan as modified by the Main Modifications and updated Policies Map or not adopt it.

Should the Committee decide not to adopt the Local Plan then: work on a new Local Plan would need to be started; it would be unlikely that either Boston Borough or South Holland District Councils would be able to demonstrate a 5-year supply of 'deliverable' housing sites for some years; until a new Local Plan was produced, both Councils would be likely to continue to face speculative applications for development; and planning decisions would need to be made without the benefit of the Local Plan's policy framework. Also, there was no budgetary provision to cover the costs of starting work on a new Local Plan and, if the Local Plan was not adopted, it would be highly likely that the Secretary of State would seek to intervene.

The Chairman addressed the meeting, saying it was very clear that the Local Plan's adoption was the start of the process. The Plan would have to be continuously monitored and refreshed to ensure it remained robust to guard against challenges. Areas would need to be well managed and allowed to evolve and develop, and teams had to be well resourced and supported in order to best shape the districts. This message should be taken back to both Councils

The Chairman then thanked the team, particularly two officers who had recently left the process, Gary Alexander and Chris Holliday, amongst others.

Vote: Unanimous

DECISION:

- 1) The conclusions and recommendations of the Inspector's Report into the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036 (see Appendix A to the report) be noted;
- 2) The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036 as modified (see Appendix C to the report) be adopted;
- 3) The updated Policies Map and Inset Maps which illustrated geographically the application of the Local Plan's policies (see Appendix D to the report) be approved.

29. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

(The meeting ended at 11.20 am)

(End of minutes)