

Minutes

Policy Review Committee

- Venue: Committee Room
- Date: 24 November 2011
- Present: Councillor M Jordan (Chair), Councillor R Musgrave, Councillor R Packham, Councillor I Reynolds and Councillor Mrs A Spetch
- Apologies for Absence: Councillor Mrs E Metcalfe, Councillor R Sweeting, Councillor I Nutt and Councillor Davis
- Also Present: Councillor J Mackman and Councillor Mrs G Ivey (for part of the meeting)
- Officers Present: Jonathan Lund, Deputy Chief Executive; Michelle Sacks, Solicitor to the Council; Eileen Scothern, Business Manager; Helen Gregory, Policy Officer and Richard Besley, Democratic Services Officer

24. Declarations of interest

Following advice from the Deputy Chief Executive and in accordance with the Constitution and the Councillor Code of Conduct, Councillors Mackman and Mrs Ivey declared a prejudicial interest in item in 25 (The Core Strategy) by virtue of the fact that they were Executive members and had been present when the decision under scrutiny by the Policy Review Committee was made.

25. Report PR/11/9 – Core Strategy – Key Decision

The Chair presented report PR/11/9 which set out the Inspector's concerns in respect of the Selby District Core Strategy from the Examination in Public (EIP) and the implications for the Council.

The Chair asked the Business Manager to summarise the discussions from the Executive meeting which had taken place earlier in the morning.

The Business Manager informed the Committee that the Executive had discussed the three main topics that prompted the adjournment of the EIP, these were:

- The overall scale of housing development over the plan period;
- The scale of housing and employment development proposed for Tadcaster and the implications for the Green Belt;
- The strategic approach to Green Belt issues.

Executive Member Councillor Mackman detailed a minor amendment made by the Executive to the Green Belt Policy. He also advised Policy Review Committee of an amendment made by the Executive to clarify the emphasis to deliver housing in the Tadcaster area.

The Committee heard that the Executive discussed the quantum of housing development over the plan period. Discussion had focused on the 450 houses per annum planned housing growth as recommended in the detailed report submitted by the Council's consultants.

Policy Review supported the Executive's request that the consultants be asked to provide further evidence to substantiate the recommendations and advice on the sustainability of housing growth figures in a range between 450 and 465 per annum.

In compliance with the Code of Conduct, and there being no further questions for the Executive members, Councillors Mackman and Mrs Ivey left the meeting.

Councillor Packham raised a number of queries regarding the proposed housing increase for Tadcaster. He informed the Committee of the debate at a recent Sherburn Parish Council meeting regarding any potential increased housing numbers for the area. The Business Manager clarified the position of the Core Strategy in relation to the Localism Act which had recently received royal assent.

The Committee discussed the decisions made by the Executive. The Chair proposed that the changes to the Core Strategy, outlined at recommendation (iii) in the Executive minutes, should be approved by the Executive acting collectively rather than an individual Executive member. It was agreed to make this recommendation to the Executive.

Councillor Packham proposed that in respect of Executive recommendation (vi) the words "as the preferred option" be removed in favour of "to accommodate the shortfall in Tadcaster". It was agreed to make this recommendation to the Executive.

RESOLVED:

(i) The note the report;

(ii) To support the Executive in asking the Council's consultants to provide evidence of the sustainability of housing growth on a range of 450 to 465 dwellings;

(iii) To request that the Executive amend the recommendation to read:

More detailed policy proposals and Proposed Changes to the Core Strategy be developed for approval by the Executive, taking into account the Green Belt Policy as amended;

(iv) To request that the Executive amend the recommendation regarding housing at Tadcaster to read:

In respect of the shortfall of housing in Tadcaster, to approve Plan A to accommodate the shortfall in Tadcaster.

The meeting closed at 2.25pm