

**Minutes of the
Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel
(to be confirmed at the next meeting)**

Date: Wednesday, 5 June 2024

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs T L Ellis (Chairman)

Councillor S Dugan (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs L M Birkett, Mrs P K Hayre, A M J Murphy, P M Nother and P W Whittle

Also Present: Councillor M R Daniells (Executive Member for Planning and Development)



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies of absence were received at the meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel meeting held on the 14 March 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed the new Members to the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel for this municipal year.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

A written deputation was received from Chris Watson for item 7 – Motion – Community Generated Energy Schemes.

6. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY PANEL OVERVIEW

The Panel received a presentation from the Director of Planning and Regeneration providing an overview of the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel. The presentation provided details of the role and function of the Panel and then went into more specific details with regards to the Planning and Development Portfolio and its various work streams.

Members of the Panel asked for clarification on how the Climate Change and Planning and Development Scrutiny Panels work in collaboration on the various Environment topics that fit within the Portfolio. The Director of Planning and Regeneration addressed the Panel to confirm that with the Council's new Environment Strategy being developed, Officers will be looking to provide greater clarity over the coming months on what will fall within the remit of both Panels. As Climate Change sits within the Planning and Development Portfolio there is likely to be a requirement for collaborative working on some topics, but information on which Panel will lead on these needs further clarification.

Members also enquired about the Fareham Town Centre Regeneration programme as that had not been mentioned as a work stream for this Panel. The Director of Planning and Regeneration advised that this is a corporate project for the Council which sits within the Policy and Resources Portfolio. That said, again there will likely be a requirement for the Panels to work together as this project moves forward through the decision-making process with the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel taking the lead.

Officers confirmed that a Member Briefing will be scheduled in the coming months to provide further information on the Fareham Town Centre Regeneration programme and the timescales that have been set so far.

The newer Members of the Panel suggested that it would be useful for them to receive a copy of the Portfolio responsibilities with a brief explanation to provide some context around the topics. Officers agreed that they would create a crib sheet style document to assist Members.

RESOLVED that the Panel note the contents of the presentation.

7. MOTION - COMMUNITY GENERATED ENERGY SCHEMES

Members received a Motion - Community Generated Energy Schemes that had been referred to the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel by Council on the 23 February 2024. Councillor Mrs C Hockley addressed the Panel to present her Motion. The Policy, Engagement and Research Manager then presented details to the Panel providing an overview of the development of the proposed Local Electricity Bill since 2021 when Community Energy Schemes were first identified by the Government as a way for local communities to contribute to local and national Net Zero targets.

Members were asked to confirm they had read the written deputation that had been received from Chris Watson.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hockley for presenting her Motion and Members of the Panel took part in a lengthy discussion about the Motion before them.

Members of the Panel expressed support for the need for government to encourage and support Community Generated Energy Schemes from local community groups and residents that have a passion and spirit to take these types of projects forward for the good of their local communities. Discussions continued around the uncertainty surrounding the the proposed Bill which has not been progressed as legislation to date, and also how the General Election may affect this moving forward. The Panel was mindful of the current pre-election period and therefore considered that the Council should defer debating and deciding on this Motion until after the General Election. It was also considered that the presentation slides from tonight's meeting should be circulated to the Council prior to the Motion being debated.

RESOLVED that the Panel:-

- a) expressed support for the need for government to support Community Generated Energy Schemes; and
- b) considered that Council should defer debating and deciding on the Motion until after the General Election.

8. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

The Panel received the items of Executive business that had been taken since the last meeting.

Members were asked to also consider the tabled item that had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Executive decision – Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document – Adoption.

(1) Welborne Delivery Process Update

No comments or questions were received for this item.

(2) Community Infrastructure Levy

No comments or questions were received for this item.

(3) Environment Update

No comments or questions were received for this item.

(4) Planning Performance Monitoring Update

No comments or questions were received for this item.

9. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES

The Panel were asked to consider the Scrutiny Priorities for the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel. The Team Leader (Planning Strategy) addressed the Panel to provide an overview of a potential work programme, which had been set out to propose how various work streams underway by Officers could be delivered to the Panel throughout the municipal year. The Director of Planning and Regeneration addressed the Panel to confirm that the work programme is flexible and subject to change, but requested that Members consider which items they wish to be brought before them for consideration.

With a number of new Members on the Panel, it was agreed that the potential work programme presented to the Panel be circulated. It was requested that Officers provide an brief outline of t each workstream and links to any previous reports or policy documents to allow Members to better understand the items for them to consider.

The Director of Planning and Regeneration also suggested that in order for Members to have time to research the various topics and to allow for items currently scheduled for consideration by the Executive in the autumn to be finalised, that the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel currently scheduled for the 17 July by postponed until a date in September. Members agreed with this proposal and a new date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Members asked that three items be considered for inclusion within the work programme, 1) details of the Local Plan timetables for review; 2) collaborative work on the Fareham Town Centre Regeneration programme with the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel; and 3) the Environment Strategy workstream, which although may be led by the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel, should be

sighted within the work programme for this Panel. The Director of Planning and Regeneration confirmed that these topics will be incorporated into the work programme as appropriate throughout the municipal year.

RESOLVED that the Panel considered the Scrutiny Priorities for the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 8.02 pm).

..... Chairman

..... Date

Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel

05 June 2024

Scrutiny Panels

Purpose and Members' role

Role and Functions

- 'Scrutiny' = a careful and detailed examination of something in order to get information about it.
- To scrutinise: -
 - The activities and performance of the Executive, Executive Members and Officers
 - Focus on Council Corporate Priorities and related key projects
 - Policy development review (considering things at initial policy development stage)
 - Strategic plans and performance of services
 - External organisations (when relevant)

Consider Executive Business

Standard agenda item: “to consider any item of business dealt with by the Executive, since the last meeting of the Panel”

- Provides transparency on Executive Decisions made by:
 - Meeting of Executive
 - Individual Executive Member
 - Officers (under delegated authority)
- Gives Panel Members the opportunity to comment or ask questions for clarification

Call-In

Formal Call-In:

“Each Scrutiny Panel will exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, any decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive or by individual Executive Members and any key decisions made but not yet implemented by officers in exercise of their delegated powers”

Managing Scrutiny Panel Priorities

- Officers will advise of areas of forthcoming policy and project development
- You decide what goes on to the Panel's future work programme
- Cancel a meeting
- Create a new meeting
- The Panel can consider what they want to know about
- Standing agenda item

Topics in the Planning and Development Portfolio

- Planning Strategy
- Local Plan
- Supplementary Planning Documents
- Infrastructure planning
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- Planning policy performance
- Environmental Mitigation
- Biodiversity
- Development design
- Built conservation
- Welborne delivery
- *Environment Strategy*
- *Climate Change Action Plan (carbon reduction/adaptation)*
- *Coastal management*

Any questions?

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Local Electricity Bill Overview

Minute Item 7

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Background

- **2008: Climate Change Act** - reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels
- **2019:** Strengthened legal commitment to Net Zero by 2050
Electricity accounts for 11% of UK greenhouse gas emissions
- **2021: Net Zero Strategy** – Plans to decarbonise all sectors of economy:
 - Community Energy schemes identified as way for local communities to contribute to local and national targets

What is Community Energy?

‘The delivery of community-led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects, whether wholly owned and/or controlled by communities or through a partnership with commercial or public sector partners.’

Community Energy England

Power for People

- Not-for-profit organisation, campaigning for UK rapid transition to 100% clean energy and for this to benefit local communities
- Current legislation holds back development of Community Energy:
 - Blocks buying electricity from local renewable sources eg local schools with rooftop solar PV
 - Significant costs associated with becoming an energy supplier regardless of the size of generation scheme
 - Energy sold to large energy companies for a lower price than what could be achieved if sold locally

Local Electricity Bill

- **Power for People** drafted **Local Electricity Bill**
- Private Members Bill presented first in 2021
- Aims to establish a framework to support the growth of community energy schemes

Local Electricity Bill: Measures

- **A Community Electricity Export Guarantee:** A right for sites that generate low carbon electricity below 5 megawatts to export their electricity to an existing supplier at an independently set minimum export price

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A Community Electricity Supplier Services Scheme: A requirement for existing larger energy suppliers to work with community schemes to sell the power they generate to local customers. Existing suppliers could charge a fee for doing this, but that fee must be reasonable.

Recent policy developments

- **January 2023:** Independent Review of Net Zero Strategy published recommendations:
 - Commit to Local Electricity Bill and publish a Community Energy Strategy
 - Addresses regulatory, legislative, funding and capacity barriers in the sector
- **March 2023:** - Powering up Britain - Government rejects review recommendations as already expressed support for community energy in original Net Zero Strategy and subsequent updates

Latest Update

- **May 2023:** Latest version of the Local Electricity Bill had 1st reading then prorogued
- 326 cross party MPs and 112 Local Authorities support the Bill
- **October 2023 - Energy Act** receives Royal Assent:
 - Creation of £10m Community Energy Fund
 - Commitment to consult on barriers to Community Energy
 - Regulatory environment stays the same for Community Energy schemes

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2541

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 3 June 2024

Portfolio	Planning and Development
Subject:	Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document - Adoption
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Corporate Priority:	Provides Housing Choices; Responsive, Inclusive and Innovative Council

Purpose:

To approve the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document for adoption.

The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is proposed to replace the current Affordable Housing SPD which was adopted in December 2005. The new SPD seeks to support the implementation of the Fareham Local Plan 2037 affordable housing policies HP5 and HP6 by providing information, guidance and advice on meeting policy requirements for affordable housing.

The SPD highlights the importance of early engagement with the Council's Planning and Housing teams, whilst drawing attention to the importance of design and placemaking, to ensure that development achieves consistent design quality and social inclusion.

To accompany the SPD, a commuted sums calculator has been commissioned by the Council. This calculator will inform the level of financial contributions which will be payable by developers in the event that affordable housing provision cannot be provided on-site and a financial contribution towards off-site provision is agreed.

The draft SPD was presented to the Executive on 5th February 2024 and approved for public consultation. A six-week period of consultation was undertaken between 16th February and 29th March 2024. Following the consultation, the responses have been considered, summarised and responded to in the Council's Statement of Consultation and the final version of the SPD is now presented to the Executive for consideration.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) notes the consultation comments received on the Draft Supplementary Planning Document together with the Council's responses to the representations as set out in the Statement of Consultation at Appendix A to the report; and
- (b) agrees to adopt the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document as set out in Appendix B to the report with effect from the 1 July 2024.

Reason:

To enable the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document to be adopted and afforded due weight as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 3 June 2024