



Cabinet 15 September 2010

Recommendations from Sustainable Development Panel: 31 August 2010 (Sep10/01)

*Cabinet Members: Terry Clements Chairman of the Panel:
Peter Stevens Cllr Richard Rout*

1. Home Renewable Energy Grant Scheme (Report B168)

RECOMMENDED:-

That the Renewable Energy Grant Scheme be continued by the allocation of a further £10,000 from the unallocated Capital Programme 2010/2011.

In the UK, the Government's Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) promoting the installation of domestic scale renewable energy technologies had been withdrawn. In its place, in April 2010, the Government had introduced the Clean Energy Cashback scheme which comprised payments to householders through utility bills for renewable electricity generation. More detail on the new payment scheme was given in Section 8 of the Report. At present, no grant or cashback scheme was being offered to householders generating heat using such technologies as heat pumps or solar thermal systems. An explanation of these technologies was contained in Appendix A of the Report.

The current St Edmundsbury Home Renewable Energy Scheme had been running since August 2009 and offered a £500 grant towards the cost of installing an approved renewable energy system. The total grant provision was £10,000, thus providing 20 Home Renewable Energy Grants to householders. The technologies listed in Appendix A were eligible for the grant and 19 grants had been offered to date.

2. St Edmundsbury Replacement Local Plan 2016 – Policy HAV3: Employment Site – Hanchett End, Haverhill: Adoption of Draft Concept Statement (Report B169)

RECOMMENDED:-

That, the Concept Statement for Hanchett End, Haverhill, as attached as Appendix C of Report B169, be adopted as non-statutory planning guidance.

Land at Hanchett End had been allocated in Policy HAV3 of the Replacement Local Plan as a Strategic Employment Site (Use Classes B1 and B8). Policy DS4 of the Plan required that a masterplan for the site was to be agreed and adopted by the Council before a planning application for the site could be approved. Masterplans were to be informed by a Concept Statement produced by the Council.

A draft Concept Statement for the development at Hanchett End was approved for consultation by the Panel at its meeting on 14 June 2010. The consultation had now been completed and a summary of comments received together with officers' responses was attached as Appendix A to the Report.

A document setting out the response to the consultation prepared by agents acting for the developers, Carisbrooke Investments, was attached as Appendix B.

The Concept Statement had been amended in the light of comments received and this was attached as Appendix C.

Officers advised that if the Panel were mindful of approving further changes to the Concept Statement other than those proposed in Appendix C the provisos referred to in paragraph 4.5 of the Report should be included in the final version of the document.

The Panel discussed the extent of flexibility being sought by the developer which would allow for higher value uses of the site to be included in the Concept Statement. The developer had raised fundamental issues about the viability of developing the site. Whilst higher value uses such as hotel/conference or car showroom provision might be acceptable, the inclusion of residential development within the overall development would represent a departure from planning policy and this was a matter for concern. However against this view there was a desire to promote the early and successful development of the site which might warrant greater flexibility being included in the Concept Statement.