



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

B256

Cabinet 20 October 2010

Recommendations from Sustainable Development Panel: 5 October 2010 (Nov10/01)

Cabinet Member: Terry Clements

*Chairman of the Working Party:
Cllr Richard Rout*

**1. St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework: Core Strategy –
Inspector's Report and Final Core Strategy document (Report B239)**

RECOMMENDED:- That:-

- (1) the content of the Inspector's Report, contained as Appendix A of Report B239, be noted; and***
- (2) the Core Strategy document as amended, (Appendix B); Proposals Map (Appendix C), Habitat Regulations Assessment (Screening), (Appendix D), and the Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix E) to Report B239 be recommended for adoption by full Council.***

The Panel considered Report B239, (previously circulated) the purpose of which was to enable the Members to receive the Inspector's Report into the examination of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and to consider the presentation of the final Core Strategy for adoption by Cabinet and full Council.

In 2008 the Council commenced the preparation of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and in December 2009, following extensive consultation, the Council agreed to submit the document to the Government for independent examination.

The Planning Inspector's Report into the examination was received on 24 August 2010 and was attached as Appendix A to the report. His report concluded that the Core Strategy document had been prepared within the appropriate legal framework, that all legal tests were met and that, subject to a number of mainly minor binding changes, the Core Strategy was suitable for adoption. The examination process required that the changes required by the Inspector's report are binding upon the Council should it proceed to adopting the Core Strategy. The required changes were set out in three annexes to his report:-

Annexe A: Recommended Council changes;
Annexe B: Recommended minor changes proposed by the Council; and
Annexe C: Changes recommended by the Inspector.

The changes had been incorporated in the document and the amended version of the Core Strategy was attached as Appendix B. Suggested changes to the proposals map had been endorsed by the Inspector and an updated final version of this was attached as Appendix C.

As a result of changes required by the Inspector, the Habitat Regulations Assessment (Screening) and the Sustainability Assessment documents had been updated and were attached as Appendices D and E respectively.

The Panel were informed that the Council had two options now that the Inspector's Report had been received:-

- (i) to adopt the Core Strategy, as amended by the Inspector; or
- (ii) not to adopt the Core Strategy.

By choosing to adopt the Core Strategy, the Council would be putting in place a long term vision for the borough and setting out the strategic directions of growth for the two towns in the borough to 2031. The Core Strategy would also provide the basis for the provision of future infrastructure. It placed the authority in a very strong position to manage development in its area and start the subsequent planning of the more detailed proposals in the Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill masterplans and in the Rural Areas.

There were a number of implications if the Council chose to not adopt the Core Strategy. The Council had used extensive resources, to develop the Core Strategy, the evidence base which supported it and to provide for an independent examination into the document. Should the Council decide not to adopt the Core Strategy this would in effect be directing the authority to start the process again for preparing a new Core Strategy. The Panel was made aware that this may result in both legal action against the authority and speculative planning applications due to a lack of up to date strategic planning policy guidance.