



St Edmundsbury  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# C232

## Cabinet 23 November 2011

### Recommendations from Sustainable Development Working Party: 8 November 2011 (Dec11/02)

*Cabinet Member:*  
Cllr Terry Clements

*Chairman of the Working Party:*  
Cllr Richard Rout

**1. Investigating Decentralised Energy in Bury St Edmunds – Study findings and way ahead (Report C206)**



**RECOMMENDED:-**

- (1) further studies be carried out by the Borough Council and its partners to confirm the final choice and configuration of the three District Energy network options set out in Annex A to Report C206;***
- (2) the work comprise of detailed technical and financial feasibility studies of the options to confirm their viability, along with the evaluation of the most appropriate delivery structure and their implications for both the Borough Council and other key parties which may be involved in the network;***
- (3) prospective stakeholders be invited to participate and provide support;***
- (4) unspent funds allocated to the initial study by the Borough Council, in the region of £3,000, be allocated to support the follow-up work;***
- (5) the LDA Design/Inventa Partners report be considered as evidence for the development of policy within the emerging Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, supporting development planning documents and other corporate planning, both for all forms of decentralised energy in the town; and***
- (6) the Council establish a low carbon fund or similar delivery model to secure a sustainable energy vision for the town and assist delivery of the network should it be proven viable. In developing the fund, consideration should be given to using the Community Infrastructure Levy,***

***Allowable Solutions, New Homes Bonus, prudential borrowing and other investing and funding options.***

In April 2011 the Working Party considered a report (Report B558 refers) which set out proposals to take forward the findings of a study commissioned by the Borough Council on behalf of a group of partner organisations. The study focussed on investigating the potential opportunities for local energy generation and district energy (heat and power) in Bury St Edmunds. The study formed the initial phase of a wider project with the strategic aim of developing sustainable, affordable, low carbon energy supplies for Bury St Edmunds over the next twenty years.

The study provides a technical evidence base to support Local Authority actions and planning policies for decentralised energy. It also provides technical and financial options appraisals to help inform public and private investment in decentralised energy (heating, cooling and electricity) projects and their potential to be delivered to existing and planned mixed development in the town over the next 20 years. Of seven District Energy network opportunity areas identified in the study, three complementary options were considered worthy of further detailed investigation.

**2. St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework: Annual Monitoring Report (Report C207)**



***RECOMMENDED:-***

- (1) the 2010/2011 Annual Monitoring Report, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report C207, be approved and published; and***
- (2) the Interim Joint Head of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transportation and the Built Environment be authorised to incorporate into the Annual Monitoring Report any further minor changes as are necessary to update it and make any spelling, grammatical, factual, formatting and numbering corrections, provided they do not materially affect the substance or meaning of the Report.***

The current regulations covering the preparation of Local Development Frameworks require Local Planning Authorities to prepare and submit to their regional government office, an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) covering the previous financial year. Report C207 contains the seventh Planning Policy Annual Monitoring Report.

There have been a number of changes which have affected the preparation and process of agreement for the AMR which include the abolition of the regional government offices, as well as a number of proposed changes to the planning regulations which now indicate the minimum level of data to be reported in future AMRs. Part 8 of the draft revised planning regulations removes the requirement to prepare an AMR for the Secretary of State, instead councils are required to

prepare the report for local people focusing on key issues to be determined at a local level.

**7. St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework: Joint Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Development Management Development Plan (Report C208)**



**RECOMMENDED:-**

- (1) the Joint Development Management Policies Development Plan Document, attached as Appendix A to Report C208, together with the Sustainability Appraisal, attached as Appendix B to Report C208, and the Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening document, attached as Appendix C to Report C208, be approved for public consultation;***
- (2) the protocol for agreeing draft changes to the document with Forest Heath District Council, to be presented to the Sustainable Development Working Party on 31 January 2012; and***
- (3) any minor typographic, factual and grammatical changes to the final document be delegated to the Interim Joint Head of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport and the Built Environment and the Chairman of the Sustainable Development Working Party.***

The Joint Development Management Development Plan Document of the Local Development Framework will, when complete provide a range of policies which will replace the 'saved' Replacement Local Plan Policies. The development of the policies has evolved through a number of rounds of public consultation. Given the potential duplication of policies in St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath, a joint document is being prepared.

The Officers advised that Appendix D had not been distributed to the Working Party as additional work was required to the protocol. The Working Party agreed that the protocol would be presented to the next meeting on 31 January 2012.

**8. Babergh Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Submission Document Consultation (Agenda Item 8)**



**RECOMMENDED:-**

***That, Babergh District Council be thanked for consulting the Borough Council on the Submission Core Strategy and that no objections be raised.***

Babergh District Council recently commenced consultation on the submission version of their Local Development Framework Core Strategy, with consultation due to end on 2 December 2011. This consultation process is the final stage of consultation before the District Council decides whether to submit the document to the Secretary of State for examination by a Planning Inspector.

The Borough Council have previously commented on their options for the distribution of development in the district with a view to potential impacts that the growth could have on St Edmundsbury and its environment and infrastructure. Babergh District Council prepared a leaflet to support the consultation process which was attached as Appendix A to Paper C209.

## **9. Mid Suffolk Core Strategy: Consultation on Focused Review (Agenda Item 9)**



### ***RECOMMENDED:-***

***That, the Interim Joint Head of Planning be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transportation and the Built Environment, and the Chairman of the Sustainable Development Working Party, to prepare a report to Cabinet on 23 November 2011 outlining an overview of the consultation document and propose a response from the Borough Council.***

***(This recommendation will be considered under Agenda Item 20 (Report C236).***

On 31 October 2011, Mid Suffolk District Council commenced consultation on a 'focused review' of their adopted Core Strategy following concerns of the Planning Inspector examining the Stowmarket Area Action Plan about the conformity of that Plan with the adopted Core Strategy. The consultation period ends on 9 December 2011.

The changes relate to the provision and distribution of housing and the Employment Chapter in the Core Strategy in order to bring the Stowmarket Area Action Plan into conformity. The opportunity is also being taken to update the Core Strategy policy for sustainable development, in anticipation of national planning policy changes indicated in the draft National Planning Policy Framework. The Borough Council has an outstanding objection to the Stowmarket Area Action Plan in relation to the amount and type of employment land it allocates in that it is not supported by the evidence jointly undertaken by the District Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council. The proposed allocation would not be in accordance with their adopted Core Strategy.

The Working Party felt that a combination of options (1) and (2) would be the most appropriate mechanism for preparing a response to Mid Suffolk District Council regarding their Core Strategy Focused Review.