



St Edmundsbury  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# D130

## Cabinet 12 September 2012

### Recommendations from the Sustainable Development Working Party Meeting: 11 September 2012 (Sep12/03)

**Cabinet Members:**  
Cllr Terry Clements  
Cllr Peter Stevens

**Chairman of the Working Party:**  
Cllr Richard Rout

*(With the agreement of the Chairman of the Working Party, the following items were considered in a different order to that published in the agenda.)*

**1. Forest Heath Core Strategy – Single Issue Review: Issues and Options Consultation (Report D135)**

**RECOMMENDED:- That**

- (1) Forest Heath District Council be thanked for consulting the Borough Council on the Single Issue Review of the Forest Heath Core Strategy;**
- (2) no opinion be offered on which of the three options for housing growth to 2031 is most appropriate but that the content of paragraphs 4.10 to 4.13 of Report D135 form the basis of the Borough Council's response to the consultation; and**
- (3) at the Submission stage of the Review, the potential wider impact of the preferred option for housing growth be assessed in order that the Borough Council can ascertain whether its services and facilities have the capacity to accommodate the impact of such growth alongside that already planned in the adopted St Edmundsbury Core Strategy.**

Report D135, which sought the Borough Council's response to the consultation on the Single Issue Review of the Forest Heath Core Strategy was considered.

Forest Heath District Council has commenced a review of Policy CS7 of its Core Strategy and is consulting on Issues and Options. Under the Duty-to-cooperate provisions of the Localism Act 2011, local planning authorities are required to demonstrate that they have liaised across borders on planning matters that are of wider significance. The consultation is a commencement of considering the

principles of future housing quantity and distribution across the district and ends on 25 September 2012. A copy of the consultation leaflet is attached as Appendix A to Report D135.

The report considers the content of the consultation document and potential impact on St Edmundsbury of the options being put forward.

## **2. Work to Tackle Climate Change and Energy Security – Update (Report D134)**

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

***That continued support be given to achieving the key objectives of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership relating to tackling climate change and energy security as contained in paragraph 4.3 of Report D134 and the Suffolk Climate Action Plan attached as Appendix B to the report.***

Report D134, which sought continued support to be given to achieving the key objectives of the Suffolk Climate Action Plan was considered.

Since 2007 the Borough Council, along with all of Suffolk's Local Authorities, has been working with other public and private sector organisations within the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership with the aim of tackling climate change and energy security. The Partnership operates within an agreed Terms of Reference and sets out its programme of work in the Suffolk Climate Action Plan. This is complemented by other local actions undertaken by the Borough Council.

The Borough Council agreed in 2007 to support the Partnership as the appropriate mechanism for co-ordinated climate change action across Suffolk (Report Z242 refers).

The report set out in Appendix A the work of the Partnership to date and the benefit gained through participation both for the Council and the communities which it serves. The Suffolk Climate Action Plan 2, an updated version of the original plan, is attached as Appendix B. A list of organisations supporting the Action Plan is included as Appendix C.

The Partnership's three key objectives set out in paragraph 4.3 are:-

- (1) develop a credible pathway to reduce carbon emissions associated with energy use in Suffolk by 60% (on 2004 levels) by 2025;
- (2) support the development of a green economy; and
- (3) adapt in advance to future climate change and resource scarcity.

**3. Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Supplementary Planning Document (Report D136)**

***RECOMMENDED:- That***

- (1) the draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Supplementary Planning Document, as detailed in Appendix A to Report D136, be approved for public consultation; and***
- (2) the Head of Service for Planning be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, to make any necessary minor typographical, grammatical or similar textual changes to the draft prior to publication for consultation purposes.***

Report D136 which sought approval of a draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities was considered.

The provision of open space and facilities for sport and recreation helps underpin people's quality of life. Where new development occurs, it is important that sufficient sport, recreation and open space provision is made to make proposals acceptable in land use planning terms.

A draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been developed to set out the Council's approach to the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in conjunction with new housing development. The guidance details how the Council will implement existing planning policies and give developers and the public up-to-date information on developer contributions that are reasonably related in scale to the development proposed. The document itself will not be a planning policy, but it will inform and be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Attached as Appendix A to Report D136 is the draft St Edmundsbury Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities SPD.

Before the document can be adopted as SPD, it has to be the subject of public consultation. At the end of the consultation period, any changes to the draft will be made and reported back to the Working Party for approval prior to the Council adopting it as a Supplementary Planning Document.

**4. South Cambridgeshire Local Plan: Issues and Options Consultation (Report D137)**

***RECOMMENDED:- That***

- (1) South Cambridgeshire District Council be thanked for consulting the Borough Council on the Local Plan Issues and Options document;***
- (2) the Borough Council urges closer working by local planning authorities across the Cambridge Sub-Region to address economic growth, housing and infrastructure; and***

**(3) *the content of paragraphs 4.1 to 4.9 of Report D137 form the basis of the Borough Council's response to the consultation with the further addition of further reference to planning for alternatives to the car in paragraph 4.7 and the need to have regard for transit sites for Gypsies and Travellers.***

Report D137, which sought the Borough Council's response to the consultation on the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Issues and Options was considered.

South Cambridgeshire District Council has commenced the preparation of a new Local Plan for the district and is consulting on an Issues and Options document. Under the Duty-to-cooperate provisions of the Localism Act 2011, local planning authorities are required to demonstrate that they have liaised across borders on planning matters that are of wider significance. A copy of the consultation questionnaire leaflet is attached as Appendix A to Report D137. The consultation ends on 28 September 2012.

This report considers the content of the consultation document and potential impact on St Edmundsbury of the relevant matters in the document.

In discussing the consultation document the Working Party expressed concerns that:-

- (i) there should be opportunities for discussion at a sub-regional level on issues relating to economic growth and housing and infrastructure provision to enable a coordinated approach to be adopted;
- (ii) there was no reference in the Highways Section of the document to problems associated with the A1307 between Haverhill and Cambridge relating to traffic congestion and accident rates and this was a matter which should be addressed along with an examination of alternatives to travelling by car. It was also felt that because of the strategic importance of this route, relevant Essex local authorities should ultimately be included in discussions; and
- (iii) in relation to Gypsies and Travellers, there was a need to identify a transit site within South Cambridgeshire in view of the apparent need for this form of provision in this location.