

WEST SUFFOLK JOINT GROWTH STEERING GROUP

MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2014

10.00 AM - 12.00 PM

Members Present

Forest Heath District Council

D W Bowman (Vice Chairman)
W Hirst
T J Huggan

St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Dr A S Pugh (Chairman)
P Chung
T G Marks
Mrs S J Mildmay-White
D Redhead
J Thorndyke

Also in attendance

S Fairweather, Market Development Officer
A Mayley, Head of Economic Development and Growth
I Poole, Planning Policy and Specialist Services Manager
M Smith, Planning Services Manager
J Talbot, Principal Growth Officer
S Wood, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services
S Turner, FHDC Cabinet Officer/Committee Administrator

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C J Barker (FHDC), W J Bishop (FHDC) and from A D Rushen (SEBC).

Councillors R Dicker (FHDC) and R D S Hood (FHDC) were also unable to attend the meeting.

Substitutes

Councillor W Hirst attended the meeting as substitute for Councillor W J Bishop (FHDC). Councillor Mrs S J Mildmay-White attended the meeting as substitute for Councillor A D Rushen (SEBC)

SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

	ITEMS OF BUSINESS	RECOMMENDATION
026	<p><u>SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2014</u></p> <p>The schedule of recommendations from the meeting held on 23 June 2014 were received and noted.</p>	NOTED
027	<p><u>MARKETS UPDATE (VERBAL)</u></p> <p>The Steering Group received and noted a presentation from the Market Development Officer which explained that this role was responsible for the promotion and development of the markets within West Suffolk. The Officer also outlined the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Love your Local Market' Campaign had been held in May 2014. - Youth markets had been held in Haverhill and Bury St Edmunds and had been very popular. It was hoped that further events could be developed with West Suffolk College. - A food festival had been held at The Guineas, Newmarket from 28 to 30 August 2014. - Work was being undertaken with the local RAF bases to encourage use of the local markets. A very successful event had also been held on 4 July 2014 in Bury St Edmunds and Mildenhall. - Christmas markets for 2014. - A national initiative with Trading Standards ('Real Deal'), which was designed to reduce counterfeit sales at British markets. <p>The Officer was also developing a strategic market plan for each town. Once completed, this plan would be presented to the Steering Group, in early 2015, for consideration. Members welcomed this approach and suggested that the plan may also need to consider the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The overall economic value of the markets to the towns. - The value of the reputation of the markets. - Targets and aspirations to fill the market pitches. - The market traders to be provided with the same support as the shops, to enable them to compete on an equal footing. <p>Members then discussed further issues in relation to the markets and also proposed other initiatives which may assist with the general promotion of the markets.</p>	NOTED

	ITEMS OF BUSINESS	RECOMMENDATION
	<p>During the course of their discussions, the Steering Group also requested for a copy of the financial information for the running of the markets to be circulated to the Group for their information. It was considered that it would be useful to receive this information, in advance of the consideration of the strategic plan.</p> <p>Councillor T G Marks joined the meeting at 10.10 am, during the discussion of this item.</p>	
028	<p><u>PLANNING POLICY GROWTH FOR WEST SUFFOLK (VERBAL)</u></p> <p>The Steering Group received and noted a presentation (attached) from the Planning Policy and Specialist Services Manager in relation to planning policy growth for West Suffolk, which covered the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning Policy Framework - Growth Forecast - Planned Growth for Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury <p>The Officer also explained that it would be the intention for regular reporting on major projects to be provided to the Steering Group.</p> <p>A discussion was held on a range of issues arising from the presentation, which included:</p> <p>(a) Members wished to be informed of the number of house building completions still required to meet the 2031 targets. The Head of Planning and Regulatory Services confirmed that this information would be provided to the next meeting of the Steering Group.</p> <p>(b) Members suggested that a summit meeting be organised with MPs and MEPs to assist with the lobbying on the infrastructure requirements within West Suffolk, particularly with regard to roads and rail links (including projections with regard to traffic and rail passenger growth).</p> <p>(c) To encourage developers to build 'homes for life'. The Planning Services Manager explained that the requirements for the provision of homes and the aspiration and standard of those homes, could be determined through the use of development briefs. It may also be a role for the Design Review Panel</p>	NOTED

	ITEMS OF BUSINESS	RECOMMENDATION
	<p>when considering the design of developments.</p> <p>Councillor P Chung left the meeting at 11.00 am, during the discussion of this item.</p>	
029	<p><u>DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICY 28 (HOUSING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE (VERBAL)</u></p> <p>The Steering Group received and noted a presentation (attached) from the Planning Policy and Specialist Services Manager in relation to planning policy growth for West Suffolk, which covered the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The latest position with regard to the proposed adoption of the Joint Development Management Policies Document in February 2015. - An explanation of Policy DM28 and the impact that it would have on development within the countryside. <p>Councillor W Hirst left the meeting at 11.30 am, during the discussion of this item.</p> <p><i>Following the departure of Councillor Hirst, this left the Steering Group inquorate and, therefore, the meeting could not formally continue. However, all present agreed that, given the nature of the remaining items on the agenda, the meeting should still proceed informally.</i></p> <p>Councillor Mrs S J Mildmay-White left the meeting at 11.35 am.</p>	NOTED
030	<p><u>BUSINESS FESTIVAL - 1 TO 10 OCTOBER 2014 (VERBAL)</u></p> <p>The Steering Group received and noted a presentation from the Principal Growth Officer on the Business Festival which was running from 1 to 10 October 2014 across West Suffolk, the theme for which was 'Going for Growth'.</p> <p>Members were shown the fully responsive website which had also been produced to promote and support the Festival (www.businessfestival.org).</p> <p>The Chairman commended this event and encouraged the Steering Group to attend. The Chairman also proposed that it would be useful for an evaluation of the event to be provided back to the Steering Group for consideration, in due course.</p>	NOTED

	ITEMS OF BUSINESS	RECOMMENDATION
031	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>The following items of Other Business was raised:</p> <p>(a) <u>Future Agenda Items</u> Following on from discussions held earlier in the meeting, the Steering Group noted that the following future agenda items had been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Strategic Plan for West Suffolk Markets</i> (early 2015. Prior to the receipt of this Plan, financial information on the running of the markets to be provided to the Group) - <i>Planning Policy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular reporting on major projects - The number of house building completions required to meet the 2031 targets - <i>Evaluation of the Business Festival held from 1 to 10 October 2014</i> <p>(b) <u>Provision of Traveller Sites across Suffolk</u> The Steering Group noted the current position with regard to the cessation of the consultation by Suffolk County Council, on the provision of short-stay traveller sites across Suffolk.</p> <p>Officers also provided an update on the available provision of traveller sites (short-stay and permanent) across West Suffolk.</p>	<p>NOTED</p> <p>NOTED</p>