

# Extraordinary Council

**Minutes** of an extraordinary meeting of the **Council** held on **Tuesday 17 May 2022** at **7.50pm** in the **Conference Chamber, West Suffolk House**, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present

**Councillors**

**Chair** Mike Chester

**Vice Chair** John Augustine

Richard Alecock  
Michael Anderson  
Simon Brown  
Tony Brown  
Carol Bull  
Patrick Chung  
Nick Clarke  
Simon Cole  
Dawn Dicker  
Roger Dicker  
Andy Drummond  
Robert Everitt  
Stephen Frost  
Susan Glossop  
John Griffiths  
Pat Hanlon  
Brian Harvey

Rachel Hood  
Ian Houlder  
Paul Hopfensperger  
Beccy Hopfensperger  
James Lay  
Victor Lukaniuk  
Birgitte Mager  
Margaret Marks  
Joe Mason  
Sara Mildmay-White  
Andy Neal  
Robert Nobbs  
Colin Noble  
David Palmer  
Joanna Rayner  
Karen Richardson  
David Roach

Richard Rout  
Marion Rushbrook  
Ian Shipp  
Andrew Smith  
David Smith  
Clive Springett  
Sarah Stamp  
Lance Stanbury  
Peter Stevens  
Peter Thompson  
Jim Thorndyke  
Julia Wakelam  
Don Waldron  
Cliff Waterman  
Phil Wittam

**212. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Trevor Beckwith, Mick Bradshaw, Sarah Broughton, John Burns, Max Clarke, Jason Crooks, Diane Hind, Elaine McManus, David Nettleton, Sarah Pugh, Karen Soons and Nick Wiseman.

Councillor Aaron Luccarini was also unable to attend the meeting.

**213. Declarations of interests**

Members' declarations of interest are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

**214. Public participation**

No members of the public in attendance had registered to speak.

215. **Referral from Cabinet: West Suffolk Local Plan: Preferred Options consultation (Report number: COU/WS/22/010)**

Council considered this report, which sought approval of the West Suffolk Local Plan Preferred Options document, for the purposes of public consultation.

Following its meeting on 26 April 2022, the recommendations contained in the report had been referred by Cabinet to Council for a final decision.

The West Suffolk Local Plan would cover the period up to 2040. Upon adoption it would set out the Council's policies to address housing and employment needs and other associated economic, social and environmental priorities.

It was an important tool in supporting delivery of West Suffolk Council's strategic priorities and essential for the continuation of an effective planning service. In addition, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), required local planning authorities to prepare and keep an up-to-date local plan.

The Preferred Options document (Appendix A) represented the next stage of the plan making process. It was proposed to consult on the Preferred Options Local Plan and supporting documents for eight-plus weeks from Thursday 26 May to Tuesday 26 July 2022.

Appendix A (as listed as agenda items 4a, 4b and 4c respectively) was divided into three parts, namely:

Part One: strategic policies  
Part Two: non strategic policies  
Part Three: site allocations

A summary of the content of each part was detailed in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

Councillor David Roach, Portfolio Holder for Planning, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council, including that it was important to note that the plan was still evolving, and no firm decisions had been made at this stage. The Council would continue to gather evidence throughout the local plan preparation and this consultation was an important aspect of this. Therefore, this was not what the final plan would look like.

The response received from this consultation would help shape the next version of the local plan. That version would be the document which the Council proposed to submit for examination to the Planning Inspectorate and would be subject to a further round of consultation prior to its submission.

Councillor Roach placed his thanks on record for the outstanding work of relevant officers and the West Suffolk Local Plan Working Group for their excellent contributions in reaching this significant stage of the local plan development process.

On the motion of Councillor David Roach, duly seconded by Councillor Joe Mason, it was put to the vote and with the vote being 50 for the motion, none against and one abstention, it was

**Resolved:** That

1. the West Suffolk Local Plan Preferred Options (Regulation 18) document, as contained in Appendix A to Report number: COU/WS/22/010, together with supporting documents, be approved for the purposes of public consultation.
2. Delegated authority be given to the Director (Planning and Growth), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning to make minor non-material consequential changes to the documents, as necessary.

216. **Referral from Cabinet: West Suffolk Local Plan Preferred Options consultation - Appendix A: Part One Strategic Policies**

See minute 215. above.

217. **Referral from Cabinet: West Suffolk Local Plan Preferred Options consultation - Appendix A: Part Two - Non Strategic Policies**

See minute 215. above.

218. **Referral from Cabinet: West Suffolk Local Plan Preferred Options consultation - Appendix A: Part Three - Site Allocations**

See minute 215. above.

The meeting concluded at 8.03 pm

**Signed by:**

**Chair**

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