

Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning and Transport Policy Sub-Committee held in the John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton TA1 1HE, on Thursday, 27 June 2024 at 2.15 pm

Present:

Cllr Ros Wyke (Chair)

Cllr Liz Leyshon
Cllr Sarah Wakefield
Cllr Richard Wilkins

Other Members present remotely:

Cllr Steve Ashton

16 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 1

Apologies were received from Councillor Bill Revans, who was substituted by Councillor Liz Leyshorn and Councillor Dixie Darch who was substituted by Councillor Sarah Wakefield.

17 Minutes from the Previous Meeting - Agenda Item 2

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning and Transport Policy Sub-Committee held on 23 May 24 be confirmed as a correct record.

18 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3

Councillors present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor of a Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

SOMERSET COUNCILLOR	CITY, TOWN AND/OR PARISH COUNCIL
Richard Wilkins	Curry Rivel Parish Council
Ros Wyke	Westbury-sub-Mendip Parish Council

19 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4

A public question was raised by George Hitchins.

The questions and responses provided are attached to the minutes in Annex A

20 Mendip Local Plan Part II Site Allocations Review - Reg 19 publication version - Agenda Item 5

The Principal Planning Policy Officer, Andre Sestini, introduced the report for Mendip Local Plan Part II Site Allocations Review - Reg 19 publication version. This report summarises the responses made to the Limited Update Regulation 18 consultation document which was agreed by this Committee on 14 February 2024. The report recommends agreement to a submission version of the Limited Update and that following the publication period, these are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Independent Examination, alongside representations received from interested parties. Representations made at this stage in the process can only relate to legal compliance or soundness.

The following points were raised:

- The committee thanked the team for the hand work on the plan, meeting the tight deadline and for including councillors for the East of the county from the beginning.
- The date of the current hearing was queried, likely to be early 2025.
- The potential change in legislation that could occur under new government and the risk of impact on the plan.
- The differing in size in the sites and the number of dwellings per site.
- Councillors raised queries over the margin for leeway within the target number of built houses.
- The completion date of 2029 and the level of housing completion that needs to happen to comply with the date.
- Risk Assessment showing Risk score being 20, this should be corrected to 16.
- The committee were concerned in regard to the phosphate mitigation plan, and assurance was given by Andre Sestini, Principal Planning Policy Officer

Councillor Richard Wilkins proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Liz Leyshon.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Planning and Transport Policy Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** to: -

- A) Note the responses made to the Limited Update Regulation 18 consultation document as summarised in the Consultation Statement in Appendix 1 and changes proposed to support technical and other documents.
- B) Agree the Sustainability Appraisal and compliance reports appended to this document.
- C) Agree the Mendip Local Plan Part II Limited Update (submission version) at Appendix 2 and that this was published for a period of six weeks from 28 June 2024 to 9.00am on 12 August 2024 in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- D) Agree that any changes necessary to the publication documents following

this meeting were delegated to the Head of Planning in conjunction with the Lead Member for Economic Development, Planning and Assets in order to expedite the Regulation 19 publication stage and submission.

- E) Agree that following the conclusion of the Regulation 19 publication period, the Limited Update be submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination under section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, together with the submission documents prescribed by Regulation 22 of the 2012 Regulations (including representations received relating to legal compliance and soundness) before 30 September 2024.
- F) Agree that officers provide updates to this Committee on progress to submission and the examination stages of the Limited Update.

21 Forward Plan - Agenda Item 6

The Head of Planning, Alison Blom Cooper, introduced the forward plan.

The sub-committee noted the following items due to be reported at the next meeting on Thursday 15 August 2024:

- Puriton Neighbourhood Plan to be Made.
- Local Transport Plan – draft for consultation
- Taunton Waterways Strategy and Guidance
- Outcome of the review of the Minerals Plan

The following items have been moved to the meeting of the sub-committee in October:

- Cannington Neighbourhood Plan
- CIL spending priorities report

(The meeting ended at 3.00 pm)

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CHAIR