

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, 23 May 2024 at 2.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Ros Wyke (Chair)

Cllr Dixie Darch
Cllr Richard Wilkins

Cllr Bill Revans

25 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 1

There were no apologies received.

26 Minutes from the Previous Meeting - Agenda Item 2

Resolved that the minutes of the Planning and Transport Policy Sub-Committee held on 14 February 24 be confirmed as a correct record.

27 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

Councillor Dixie Darch also declared an interest as she had been involved in discussions relating to the Kingston St Mary Neighbourhood Plan.

28 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4

Public Questions were received from: -

- David Redgewell
- David Stripp
- Paul Townsend

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

29 Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Review 2024 - Agenda Item 5

The Service Manager for Transport Commissioning, Natasha Bates, introduced the report which detailed the review carried out on the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), which was due to be re-submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) by 12 June 2024.

The Sub-Committee discussed the report and the following points were raised:-

- The plan needed to highlight the rurality of Somerset, in particularly on page 35 of the plan, where Somerset's ambitions were highlighted.
- Somerset had double the national average of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) where the BSIP could make a real difference.
- Somerset had several households whose residents were without vehicles who relied upon the bus routes located near them.
- Councillors agreed that it was an interesting document and showed the challenge faced by the public transport network in the area.
- The document would be reported back to committee with the proposed amendments highlighted as tracked changes and officers would ensure it was distributed to members ahead of the meeting.

Councillor Revans proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Richard Wilkins.

Resolved that the Planning and Transport Policy Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- a) Approve the content of the draft Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) attached at Appendix A and the BSIP Overview Table attached at Appendix B.
- b) Delegate authority to the Head of Transportation to:
 - i. Make any minor amendments required to the BSIP and BSIP overview table, following the Transport and Planning Sub Committee, but prior to publication and submission to the DfT providing the principles of the proposals were not changed.
 - ii. Finalise the content and approve the final design of the BSIP and BSIP overview table for submission to the DfT.
- c) Agree to the submission of the final BSIP 2024 and BSIP overview table to the DfT by 12th June 2024 and publication of the BSIP on the Somerset Council website.

30 Kingston St Mary Neighbourhood Plan to be Made - Agenda Item 6

The Senior Policy Planning Officer, Ann Rhodes, introduced the report which provided an update on the position following the referendum and that Somerset Council was required to formally make the Plan part of the development plan within eight weeks of the date on which the referendum has been held as a positive result was achieved.

The Sub-Committee discussed the report and the following points were raised:-

- The Sub-Committee were pleased with the report and the proposed cycling routes to North Petherton.

Councillor Bill Revans proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Richard Wilkins. Due to the declaration of interest in this item Councillor Dixie Darch abstained from voting.

Resolved that the Planning and Transport Policy Sub-Committee agreed:

- a) That the Kingston St Mary Neighbourhood Development Plan was 'made' (adopted) as part of the statutory Development Plan and to be used in determining planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area which was the Parish of Kingston St Mary.

31 Nexus Local Development Order - Agenda Item 7

The Principal Planning Policy Officer, James Holbrook, introduced the report which requested members to complete the review and ensure compliance with Condition 1 of the Local Development Order (LDO). It also proposed that the wording of Condition 1 was also amended to address some minor typographical errors and to insert an additional review period (second review) in order that the regeneration benefits of the LDO could be secured.

The Sub-Committee discussed the report and the following points were raised:-

- Councillors agreed that the report provided a sensible approach to ensure compliance with Condition 1 of the LDO.
- Councillors acknowledged the importance of noting the review in 5 years and the revision of the wording in Condition 1.

Councillor Richard Wilkins proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Dixie Darch.

Resolved that the Planning and Transport Policy Sub-Committee agreed to retain the LDO as it stood, in accordance with Condition 1 (a) of the LDO, subject to the additional text (highlighted in bold below).

a) *The*

LDO and the terms within it will be active for a period of 15 years following the day of its adoption and will expire following this period.

The

LPA will review progress with the LDO on the 5th anniversary of its adoption to be able to fully reflect on the continuity

continued suitability of the LDO in *the light if*
of any changes to planning policy.

~~*The*~~

This

first review will be completed with 28 days of the 5th anniversary and at the end of the review the LPA will determine whether to:

a)

Retain the LDO as it stands for the remaining 10 years of its life;

b)

Retain but revise some elements; or

c) *Revoke and cancel the LDO*

Further

to this first review, and on the assumption that the LPA has not determined to revoke and cancel the LDO as

a result of the first review,

the LPA shall, within 5 years of the first review, conduct a second review of the LDO following which the LPA shall determine whether to:

a) **Retain the LDO as it stands (or as it has previously been revised following the first review) for the remainder of the 15**

year duration for the LDO as set by this Condition 1

b)

Retain the LDO (whether as initially drawn or if revised following the first review then as revised) but revise some elements

including the nature of the development which underpins it

c)

Revoke and cancel the LDO

The

second review of the LDO shall consider the on-going suitability of the development proposals in the LDO in planning terms.

Development

which has

been commenced under the provisions of the LDO ~~can~~ **shall be able to** be completed in

the event that the LDO

- *is revoked as a result of the first or second review;* or

- *is revised as a result of the first or second review in a manner which renders the development as commenced incompatible with the LDO as revised;*

or

- *expires.*

This

is

Any

carrying out of development pursuant to this LDO shall be subject to the LPA's confirmation of compliance issued under the Pre Development process.

32 Forward Plan - Agenda Item 8

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:-

- Local Transport Plan – draft for consultation
- Outcome of the review on the Minerals Plan

- Puriton Neighbourhood Plan to be Made
- Mendip Local Plan Part II Site Allocations Review

(The meeting ended at 3.02 pm)

.....
CHAIR