

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Friday, 28 February 2014 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

H R Johnson (Chairman)  
P Bedford (Vice-Chairman)

B Alcock  
R Gambba-Jones

A Austin  
M Brookes

Planning Manager (Breckland and South Holland District Councils), Deputy Planning Manager (Breckland and South Holland District Councils), Joint Policy Unit Manager (South Holland District Council), Senior Planning Policy Officer (South Holland District Council), Planning Policy Officer (South Holland District Council), Deputy Joint Policy Unit Manager (Boston Borough Council), Forward Planning Officers (Boston Borough Council), Principal Planning Officer (Lincolnshire County Council), Environment Agency Officers, Planning Solicitor (Legal Services Lincolnshire) and Member Services Officer (South Holland District Council).

In Attendance: Councillors F Biggadike and R M Rudkin.

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors [C J T H Brewis] – *inserted by the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on 6 March 2015*

C Brotherton, R Leggott and C Davie and the Head of Built Environment and Development (Boston Borough Council).

13. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14. **DRAFT REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Joint Policy Unit Manager which sought approval for a revised local development scheme for South East Lincolnshire. A copy of the 'Draft Revised Local Development Scheme February 2014' was attached as Appendix 1 within the report.

The Joint Policy Unit Manager expressed his thanks to Hannah Albans and Janette Collier who had taken copious notes at the last committee meeting.

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The Joint Policy Unit Manager informed members that a review of plan preparation had recently been undertaken. As a result, it was recommended that, in order to maximise the chances of a development plan document being found sound by an Independent Inspector, further work on the preparation of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan should proceed on the basis outlined in revised paragraph numbers 6.2 and 6.3 of the report, namely:

- That a single Local Plan for South East Lincolnshire would be prepared instead of the two separate development plan documents; and
- That the plan period would be extended up to 2036.

There followed some discussion on matters relating to the recent withdrawal from examination of the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document, other local plan examinations across the country and the provision of community and physical infrastructure in support of new housing schemes.

Afterwards, it was proposed by Councillor Brookes that recommendation 2 of the report be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Gambba-Jones and unanimously agreed; which enabled consideration to be given to recommendation 3.

The Joint Policy Unit Manager then explained the role of the local development scheme and the statutory requirements relating to its preparation and keeping it up to date. As the Joint Committee had just approved a recommendation to prepare a single local plan document, there was a need to revise the current local development scheme accordingly and to set out a timetable for delivering such a document.

There followed discussion on the contents of the proposed single local plan document, and its timetable for preparation and cost implications.

Further discussion focussed on Councillor Gambba-Jones' concerns as to when officers thought current plan preparation work would begin to influence planning decisions and, in particular, would achieve a position of being able to resist large unacceptable housing schemes given the probability, in the near future, of being unable to demonstrate a six-year supply of deliverable sites for housing development.

Councillor Austin expressed concern about the indecisive nature of the term 'a project plan for the next 3 years or so' in section 1.3 of the local development scheme, to which officers responded by suggesting the following revision: 'a project plan setting out the timetable for the local plan'.

The Deputy Planning Manager suggested that a simple Gantt chart in the appendix would assist in clarifying the timetable; and that contacting the Planning Inspectorate might help to lend detail to the post-submission stages.

The Chairman concluded the discussion by indicating that he considered the suggested minor changes to the local development scheme were sensible.

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**DECISION:**

- a) That the contents of the report and the attached Draft Revised Local Development Scheme (Draft LDS) be noted;
- b) That a single local plan document for South East Lincolnshire be prepared;
- c) That the Draft LDS be approved, with revisions; and
- d) That the finalised LDS be effective from 14 March 2014.

(Councillor R Gambba-Jones entered the meeting at 10.15 am, during consideration of the above item.)

**15. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT.**

**Retail Study**

The Deputy Joint Policy Unit Manager reported that there was a new retail study on the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan website under the Economy section (<http://southeastlincslocalplan.org/economy/>), the results of which would be presented to a future Steering Group meeting.

**16. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The next meeting of the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee was scheduled to be held on 3 October 2014 at 10.00 am at Boston Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston.

(The meeting ended at 11.18 am)

(End of minutes)