

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd September, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:-

Councillor S. G. Flower - Chairman
Councillor A. A. J. Clarke - Vice-Chairman

Present: Councillors M. C. Birr, D. B. F. Burt, Mrs L. J. Clark, Mrs Q. N. D. Comfort, Mrs J. Dover (am), M. R. Dyer, Mrs G. S. Elliot, S. C. Hearn, Mrs A. Holland, Mrs P. A. Hymers, J. E. Little, Mrs B. T. Manuel, D. G. L. Packer (am), Mrs P. A. Reynolds, G. W. Russell (am) and D. J. Wallace (am).

Also in attendance: Councillors R. E. Daw, D. Morgan, P. W. Richardson, M. G. Simper and Mrs A Warman.

185. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence received on this occasion.

186. Declarations of Interest

Councillor S. G. Flower declared a personal interest in Minute No. 189 (Joint Scrutiny Review of the Dorset Strategy Partnership - Local Arrangements) and remained present.

Councillor Mrs L. J. Clark declared a personal interest in Minute No. 207 (Verwood Hub Consultative Group) and remained present.

187. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th July, 2008 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

188. Presentations by the Public

Mrs Sheila Bourton the Chairman of Keep Wimborne Green, and Mr Brian Lane the Chairman and Cofounder of Keep Corfe Mullen Green spoke to the Committee regarding the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Secretary of State's proposed changes.

Mrs Bourton informed the Committee that she was present to speak in relation to item 11 of the agenda, in particular to that of the Officers recommendation to East Dorset District Councillors at 11 (e) that they should no longer raise objections of housing development on the greenbelt.

Mrs Bourton informed the Committee that the Keep Wimborne Green group were appalled with recommendation (e) and felt that this recommendation went against the democratic vote taken by the Councillors at the August 2006 Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

Mrs Bourton stated that in their view the greenbelt was vitally important both for the environment and in order to protect against urban sprawl and the loss of identity of historic towns and villages. Further to this Mrs

Bourton stated that the most important aspects of greenbelts has always been their permanence, and that to allow land to be removed from them now and new boundaries redrawn that this then set a precedent and before long another tranche of green belt land will be proposed for development and then another until the towns and villages join up to become one huge urban sprawl.

Mrs Bourton urged Councillors to think very carefully about how they voted today and to do nothing which could fundamentally change and damage this beautiful area in which we live.

Mr Lane stated that John Prescott pledged to parliament on 5th February, 2003 that he would maintain or grow the greenbelt in every region including ours. On 11th July, 2007 Gordon Brown on becoming Prime Minister announced that the Government would continue to protect robustly the land designated as greenbelt including ours, and that Hazel Blears the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government during a Radio 4 interview 13th July, 2007 stated that current protections for the greenbelt will remain including our area.

Mr Lane in respect of these statements highlighted that despite repeated promises from the Government that the current protections for our greenbelt are proposed not to remain.

Mr Lane urged that Councillors support the overwhelming majority of the electorate who strongly oppose any building on our greenbelt, as decided unanimously earlier in 2006. He stated that he trusted Members will again reject the Governments proposals to build on our beautiful greenbelt, and urged that Members reject agenda item 11e.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

189. **Joint Scrutiny Review of the Dorset Strategy Partnership - Local Arrangements**

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider the report, and support the Officers' recommendation not to undertake a review of the East Dorset Community Partnership at this time.

RECOMMENDED that the Council at this time do not undertake a review of its local community partnership and community planning arrangements but ask the Community and Culture Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub Committee to reconsider this request as part of their 2009/10 work programme.

Voting: 9:4 (1 Abstention)

(Councillor S. G. Flower declared a personal interest in this item and remained present.)

190. Colehill Parish Plan and Town Parish Plan Protocols

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to support the formal responses to the Colehill Parish Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

RECOMMENDED that the formal responses to the Colehill Parish Plans detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

Voting: 13:1 (2 Abstentions)

DELEGATED BUSINESS

191. Legal Duty and Provision of Land for use as Allotments

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to note the duties placed upon this Council in relation to the provision of Allotments and to agree to leasing land to Colehill Parish Council for the development of Allotment holdings.

RESOLVED that land identified in plan 1 to this report be leased to Colehill Parish Council under the terms detailed in paragraph 7.2 of the report.

Voting: Unanimous

192. Evolving Changes to Tourism Structures in Dorset

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider supporting changes in the delivery mechanism for Tourism Services in Dorset.

RESOLVED that:

i. the guiding principles for the operation of the Destination Dorset Partnership (DDP) as detailed Appendix 1 to the report be adopted;

ii. the joint funding of initiatives contained within the DDP Business Plan (copy available in the Members Room) with a financial contribution from existing tourism budgets be supported and;

iii. the Council allocates not more than one day a week of the Tourism Officer's time to the work of Destination Dorset as part of its financial commitment to the principles of DDP working; and

iv. the Lead Member for Culture be appointed to serve as East Dorset

District Councils elected Member representative on the DDP Executive Board from October 2008.

Voting: Unanimous

193. Free Swimming Initiative

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'E' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider the approval of a formal response to the Government on their free swimming initiative.

RESOLVED that:

(i) this Council advises the Government that it proposes to register its interest in taking up its grant offer of £39,924 for the provision of free swimming for over 60's and to register its interest in providing free swimming for under 16 year olds for the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11; and

(ii) in partnership with Dorset County Council and other swimming providers investigate the introduction of a County wide free swimming initiative for the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 and report back to this Committee for final approval of the scheme before signing any formal funding agreement with Government.

Voting: Unanimous

194. Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan - Consultation Draft

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'F' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider the content of the draft strategy. Further to this Members expressed an interest in holding a meeting with Members who were interested in order to debate the issues raised and to look at what the Council is doing in relation to energy efficiency.

RESOLVED that:

a) Members' comments on the draft Strategy and Action Plan be submitted as the District's response to the draft strategy;

b) the Council responds with the view to endorsing the parts of the strategy which the District is responsible to deliver;

c) the Council notes that a report seeking the District's endorsement of the final strategy will be submitted in 2009; and

d) the Head of Public Health set up a meeting inviting interested Members to attend to debate the issues surrounding efficiency.

Voting: Unanimous

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

195. **Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy**

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'G' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider the Council's response to the Secretary of State's proposed changes.

Comprehensive discussion took place on the subject of urban extensions and further to this recommendation (e) was amended to read as detailed below.

RECOMMENDED that:

a) the attention of the Planning Committee should be drawn to the need now to give appropriate weight in planning decisions to policies contained in the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy;

b) the Council should support the Regional Assembly in any objection to the loss of the Spatial Strategy Statement and its replacement by the proposed Core Spatial Strategy policy;

c) the Council should comment that the proposed rate of economic growth is questionable;

d) the Council should object to the weakening of the Sustainable Construction Policy G in that it will lead to an unnecessarily poorer quality and greater environmental impact of development;

e) the Council should reaffirm its objection to the proposed urban extensions in areas of search 7d, e and f on the basis that the loss of greenbelt would result in an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment. The need for affordable housing is recognised but its provision should not outweigh environmental loss;

f) the Council should support the proposed urban extension for 20 ha of employment land west of Ferndown at area of search 7G;

g) the Council should welcome and support the clear statement in Changed Policy HMA 7 that with specified exceptions the general extent of the south east Dorset Green Belt will be maintained;

h) the Council should object to the proposed increase of 1,000 dwellings in the total to be developed within the existing urban areas in East Dorset as there is no sound evidence of capacity for this level of development. The Council propose that this figure should be revisited as part of the intended partial review of the Regional Spatial Strategy, taking into account the outcome of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and other work;

i) the Council should object that on the basis of the evidence and of the arguments accepted by the Panel, the figure for Gypsies' and travellers' needs to 2011 should be 13 residential and 20 transit pitches;

j) the Council should object that the Dorset Heaths should be included in the supporting text to Policy GI1 as a particular site where Green Infrastructure will be needed to mitigate the impact of new development;

k) the Council should object that the Regional Strategy should make clear that development proposals for East Dorset will be subject to monitoring of their impact on the Dorset Heaths SPA and other N2K sites, and therefore development commitments will need to be phased and if necessary reviewed;

l) the Council should object that the Secretary of State has failed to take into account the potential constraints created by the capacity and functioning of the A31 Trunk Road, and that the Strategy should make clear that the phasing and the extent of development proposed in East Dorset will be subject to the outcome of studies which are currently taking place.

Voting: Unanimous

DELEGATED BUSINESS

196. **Continuance of the policy on Council Owned Trees**

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'H' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to review and continue to support the previously agreed policy on Council Owned Trees and to receive an update on work in progress.

RESOLVED that the policy appended to the Report be adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

197. **Establishment of a Housing Sub Committee**

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'I' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider the establishment of a Housing Sub Committee.

RECOMMENDED that:

- a) **Members approve for adoption by Council the terms of reference for the establishment of a Housing Sub Committee; and**
- b) **that on approval of the Housing Sub-Committee terms of reference by Council the Housing Consultative Group be dissolved with immediate effect.**

Voting: Unanimous

198. Reference report from the Audit Committee - Value for Money Strategy

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'J' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to support the Audit Committees recommendation that the Value for Money Strategy be forwarded to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDED that subject to the agreed amendments being incorporated into the strategy, the draft Value for Money Strategy be referred to full Council for adoption.

Voting: Unanimous

DELEGATED BUSINESS

199. The Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Draft Scoping Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'K' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to approve the draft Sustainability Appraisal Report for consultation with statutory consultees.

RESOLVED that the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report be approved for consultation with statutory undertakers.

Voting: Unanimous

200. Sale of Land Rear of Downlea Cottages Witchampton

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'L' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to support the sale of land to the rear of Downlea Cottages Witchampton.

RESOLVED that the decision on the sale of the land to the rear of Downlea Cottages, Witchampton be deferred until it can be considered by the Housing Sub-Committee.

Voting: Unanimous

201. Sale of Land, former Brook Road Depot Wimborne

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'M' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to authorise the sale of land, formerly the Brook Road Depot, Wimborne.

RESOLVED that Members support the sale of the land formerly the

Brook Road Depot, Wimborne.

Voting: 10:1 (2 Abstentions)

202. Request for Variation of Lease Terms, Corfe Mullen Village Hall

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'N' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider a request to vary the terms of a lease on the Corfe Mullen Village Hall.

RESOLVED that Members agree the extension of the term of years of the lease on the Corfe Mullen Village Hall by twenty five years.

Voting: Unanimous

203. Request for Financial Assistance towards challenge on Anti Social Behaviour Order Proceedings - Purbeck District Council

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'O' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider a request from Purbeck District Council to support a challenge on Anti Social Behaviour Order proceedings.

RESOLVED that Members support the Anti Social Behaviour Order proceedings being brought by Purbeck District Council with a contribution of £500 towards the legal costs of the challenge.

Voting: Unanimous

204. Expansion of Brown Bin Scheme

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'P' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider giving authorisation to implement phase 3 of the Brown Bin Scheme.

RESOLVED that:

a) the Brown Bin Scheme be expanded to include those properties in Ferndown and West Parley that are shown within the area on the map at Appendix 1 to the report.

b) The telephone upgrade described in section 8 of the report be implemented.

Voting: Unanimous

205. Award of Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'Q' to

these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were informed of the procurement process that has been followed to award the new Grounds Maintenance Contract that will commence on 1st January 2009, and further to this were requested to approve the contract awarded.

RESOLVED that the contract be awarded to Contractor C shown in Appendix 1 to the report.

Unanimous

206. Reference from the Planning Committee: The Sheiling Estate, Ashley, St. Leonards

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'R' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to agree the future development of the Sheiling Estate, Ashley, St. Leonards.

RESOLVED that the Sheiling Estate be advised:

a) in so far as the Statement of Development Intentions for the Sheiling Estate assesses the needs of the Sheiling School and the Lantern Community, the local planning authority accepts the principle of the programmes set out in the Statement of Development Intentions dated June 2008 as constituting a potentially acceptable framework for their future development on the grounds that an exception to national and local Green Belt considerations is justified by their work with children and adults with learning disabilities. Each individual application will still need to be considered on its individual merits but will be assessed taking into account the contents of the Statement; and

b) that the local planning authority is not able to accept that the work proposed at the Ringwood Waldorf School is supported by such special circumstances as to warrant an exception to Green Belt policy.

Voting: (a) Unanimous and (b) 8:3 (3 Abstentions)

207. Verwood Hub Consultative Group

The Chief Executive submitted a report for information, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'S' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were updated on the work of the Verwood Hub Consultative Group and further to this noted the Minutes of the Verwood Hub Consultative Groups meeting of the 26th June, 2008.

(Councillor Mrs L. J. Clark declared a personal interest in this item and remained present.)

The meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN