

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
held on Wednesday 17th July 2013 at 6pm
in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.**

PRESENT:

Councillors C Joyce (Chairman)
J Collop, J Loveless (Vice-Chairman), A Lovett, T Manley,
J Moriarty (substitute), M Tilbury and D Tyler (substitute)

Other Members Present:

Councillor N Daubney, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources
Councillor A Beales, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration
Councillor Mrs Spikings, Portfolio Holder for Development

Officers:

Debbie Gates, Executive Director
Alan Gomm, LDF Manager

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D J Collis, Mrs K Mellish and G Sandell.

CSC24: **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CSC25: **URGENT BUSINESS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7**

There was no urgent business to report.

CSC26: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Spikings declared a pecuniary interest in Upwell and stated she would not participate in any debate relating to that area.

CSC27: **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

There were none.

CSC28: **CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chairman had no correspondence to report.

CSC29: **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

There were no previous Committee recommendations.

CSC30: **MATTERS CALLED-IN PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 12**

There were no matters called-in pursuant to Standing Order 12.

CSC31: **LOCAL PLAN: PUBLICATION OF DETAILED POLICIES AND SITES PLAN 'PREFERRED OPTIONS' FOR CONSULTATION**

Councillor Tilbury questioned which element of the Cabinet decision were the Committee scrutinising and whether the publication of the draft document ('Preferred Options') for public consultation was being challenged. The Chairman explained that this was not the case. Councillor Tilbury stated that the final wording of the consultation document and arrangements for the consultation had been delegated to the Portfolio Holder and relevant officers and again questioned whether this was being challenged and if not, there was not anything within the Committee's remit to scrutinise. Councillor Tilbury therefore proposed that the Committee moved to the next item on the Agenda. This was supported by Councillor Lovett. However, the Chairman gave an opportunity for other Members of the Committee to raise any questions. Councillor J Collop also concurred with the view that had been expressed, however he did seek reassurance that a full consultation exercise would be carried out. The Leader explained that he too supported the view expressed by Councillor Tilbury but stated he was sure that the Portfolio Holder and officer would be willing to answer any technical queries that Members may have.

Councillor Manley questioned whether it was necessary for all Councillors to receive what was a very large document and suggested it would have been more cost effective for Members to receive only the sections which were relevant to their Ward. Councillor Tilbury stated that he felt it was important, as a West Norfolk Councillor, to receive a copy of the full consultation document. The Leader explained that the issue had been discussed but given the significance of the Local Plan, he had felt strongly that all Councillors received a full copy. The Portfolio Holder explained the LDF Task Group had worked on the proposals for a considerable number of years in order to produce the consultation document and that she also felt it was very important that Councillors received the full copy. Separating the document into relevant Wards would also require a considerable amount of time and resource. She also explained that consideration had been given as to whether it should be issued in colour or black and white, however, given the cost implications, the document had been issued in black and white. It was highlighted that Members did have the opportunity to view the document in colour on the intranet. Alan Gomm, LDF Manager

explained that from a logistical point of view it would have also been difficult to disaggregate the document as many sections were interrelated. He explained that the document was available in a CD format if required.

Councillor J Collop further sought assurances that any comments received as a result of the consultation exercise would be collated and made available to all Councillors. Alan Gomm explained that comments could be made on-line via the Council's website, with prescribed questions raised after each section. Alternatively any comments which were received in a written format would be collated and fed electronically into the system allowing a full print out of all representations.

CSC32: **PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' DECISIONS MADE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

The following Portfolio Holders' pending decision was noted:

- Amendments to the Private Sector Housing Policy

CSC33: **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 21st August 2013 at 6pm.

Meeting closed at 6.25pm