

Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum

Monday 25 April 2016

Colman Room

County Hall

Minutes

Councillors	Attended	Apologies
Cllr Arnold – North Norfolk District Council	✓	
Cllr Carter – Breckland Council		x
Cllr Coke – Norfolk County Council		x
Cllr Fuller – South Norfolk District Council - Chair	✓	
Cllr Gray – Broads Authority		x
Cllr Hemsall – Broads Authority	✓	
Cllr Reynolds - Great Yarmouth Borough Council		x
Cllr Blunt – Kings Lynn & West Norfolk		x
Cllr Bremner – Norwich City Council	✓	
Cllr Vincent – Broadland District Council	✓	
Cllr Wassell – Breckland Council		x
Supporting Officers	Attended	Apologies
Mark Ashwell – North Norfolk District Council	✓	
Natalie Beal – Broads Authority	✓	
Mike Burrell – Norwich City Council	✓	
Caroline Jeffery – Norfolk County Council – Minerals & Waste	✓	
Phil Mileham – Breckland Council	✓	
Stuart Rickards – Environment Agency	✓	
Phil Morris – Norfolk County Council	✓	
Graham Nelson – Norwich City Council	✓	
Adam Nicholls – South Norfolk Council	✓	
John Pitchford - Suffolk County Council	✓	
John Clements – Great Yarmouth Borough Council	✓	
Ninan Xu – Norfolk County Council	✓	
John Walchester – Broadland District Council	✓	
Laura Waters – Norfolk County Council	✓	
Alan Gomm – King's Lynn and West Norfolk	✓	
Trevor Wiggett – Strategic Framework Project Manager	✓	
Chelsey Ramsbottom – Strategic Framework Project Assistant	✓	

1	Election of Chair for forthcoming year	
1.1	Graham Nelson asked for nomination for this year's new chair. Cllr Hemsall and Cllr Vincent nominated Cllr Fuller, and the members voted Cllr Fuller to continue as the Chair.	

2	Welcome, Introductions, Apologies	
2.1	There were apologies from Cllr Carter and Cllr Wassell of Breckland Council, Cllr Coke of Norfolk County Council, Cllr Blunt from King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, Cllr Gray from Broads Authority and Cllr Reynolds from Great Yarmouth Borough Council.	
3	Minutes and Matters Arising from the meeting on 14 January 2016	
3.1	Cllr Fuller introduced the meeting.	
3.2	The minutes were approved.	
4	Local Plans Expert Group report (Graham Nelson)	
4.1	Graham presented a report to the member forum on the overview of current changes to the planning system, particularly highlighting changes that may impact on strategic planning within Norfolk. Some of the main points highlighted are consultation on the National Planning Policy, the Housing and Planning Bill, Local Planning, CIL/S106 review and Starter Homes. Graham also gave the forum a verbal update on the meeting he attended recently on the recommendations suggested in the LPEG report, with a presentation from Keith Holland (an ex Senior Planning Inspector). The main themes are the LPEG report has been generally well received by the Planning Officers Society; the approach undertaken by the report is described as "evolutionary"; The duty to co-operate requirement between local planning have been taken more seriously than before; a new methodology has been recommended to simplify the current Local Plan process, with the view the entire process could be shortened to 2 years. Considerable concern has been raised on the recommendations for an inflexible approach to the use of household projections for assessing OAN. Cllr Fuller commented the shortening of the Local Plan process could be a very welcomed change	
5	Implementation of the Planning Changes Consultation (Item 9 of the Agenda – Adam Nicholls)	
5.1	Adam delivered a presentation on technical consultation on implementation of planning changes. The key points are development management matters, permission in principle, brownfield register, small sites register and Local Plans. Cllr Fuller commented that the changes proposed will take effect immediately when the changes to the NPPF comes into force.	
6	Briefing on the Starter Home Consultation (Item 10 of the Agenda – Adam Nicholls)	
6.1	Adam gave a presentation on the government's proposed introduction of starter homes. The presentation described the reason for, the specification and potential issues of this scheme.	

7	Strategic Framework progress update (Item 5 of Agenda – Trevor Wigget)	
7.1	Trevor gave an update on progress of the Strategic Framework. The project is making good progress. Currently, the main task is producing the outline document. The timescale remains very tight. Cllr Fuller would like a “shopping list” of infrastructure projects that can be used for the bidding of the Devolution Infrastructure fund by July’s member’s forum. Other members including Cllr Vincent and Cllr Bremner agreed.	Officers
7.2	Action: members have asked for an indication of “direction of travel” towards a list of infrastructure projects that can be used for bidding of funding in the Devolution deal.	
7.3	John Pitchford informed the forum that Suffolk will be using external consultant for the production of its own strategic framework, with the expectation of completion by April 2017. He stressed the importance of ensuring that the finished frameworks of both Norfolk and Suffolk can be joined together in a consistent manner.	
8	Breckland Local Plan Update (Item 7 of Agenda – Phil Mileham/Mark Pendlebury)	
8.1	Phil Mileham and Martin Pendlebury presented an update to Members on the outcomes of the Council’s recent Local Plan consultation following the previous presentation on 14 th January. A number of representations had been received that related to Strategic Issues and these were highlighted to the group. The key issues focused on Housing numbers, Housing distribution, The Economy, infrastructure, Protected Habitats & Species and Visitor pressure conservation sites. PM indicated there was broad support for the proposed growth strategy and housing numbers from consultees with most issues being raised around specific smaller villages. The wider economic strategy was supported including role of key sites at Thetford, Attleborough and Snetterton Heath and MP noted the joint Norwich to Cambridge Technology corridor work with SNDC and FHDC. PM noted that the approach to development and impact on European sites was a key cross-boundary issue and that the completion of the Norfolk-wide recreational pressure study (due to report shortly) would provide consistent evidence base under the duty. PM closed by reiterating that the Council would continue to ensure that its Local Plan had regard to the Norfolk Strategic Framework noting that the Local Plan was likely to be submitted prior to the completion of the NSF.	
9	Broads Authority Issues and Options Responses (Item 8 of Agenda – Natalie Beal)	
9.1	The Broads Authority’s Issues and Options version of the Local Plan was consulted on between February and April 2016. It contains	

	<p>various issues and suggests some high level potential options to address those issues. Around 70 individuals and organisations responded to the consultation. The comments will inform the Preferred Options of the Local Plan, due for consultation at the end of 2016.</p> <p>9.2 By the nature of the Broads Authority Executive Area, many of the topics covered in the Local Plan are strategic in nature.</p> <p>9.3 Of particular relevance to most members of the group is the approach to meeting the objectively assessed housing need of 320 between 2012 and 2036. The Authority is within three Housing Market Areas and has over provided housing in two of these areas (Waveney and Central Norfolk) but needs to find around 50 dwellings in the Great Yarmouth Housing Market Area.</p> <p>9.4 The Local Plan could also address the following cross boundary issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail (some retail areas shared with Waveney and North Norfolk) • The Acle Straight (of particular relevance to Broadland and Great Yarmouth) • Affordable Housing (the thresholds and percentages of the six districts are deferred to) </p>	
10	HELAA Methodology (Item 11 of Agenda – Mark Ashwell)	
10.1	Mark informed members that the consultation on the HELAA methodology was underway. The closing date is 7 May 2016.	
11	London and SE update (Item 12 of Agenda – Phil Morris)	
11.1	Phil informed the forum that the East of England political steering group is currently made up from members from the south and west of the region. He stressed the importance of members from Norfolk to keep a close eye on the progress of this steering group, so Norfolk's interests are not overlooked. Cllr Fuller confirmed he regularly attends the relevant meetings.	
12	Devolution (Item 13 of Agenda – Phil Morris)	
12.1	This item is covered under Strategic Framework update in para 7 (See above).	
13	AOB	
13.1	Mark Ashwell will present a report on the revised term of reference for this forum to the July meeting.	MA
13.2	Cllr Arnold raised the issue of Broadband connectivity in North Norfolk. Adam Nicholls has been taken a lead on this issue through NSF. Cllr Bremner suggested Cllr Strong would be good point of contact regarding this matter.	

14	Date of Next Meeting	
14.1	2pm 14 th July 2016 – Cranworth Room, County Hall, a further meeting to be booked for Sept/Oct time.	