



West of England Partnership

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



North
Somerset
COUNCIL

South Gloucestershire
Council

Minutes of meeting of the

Planning, Housing and Communities Board

Thursday 22nd April 2010, 2.15pm BAWA, Filton, South Gloucestershire

Present

Cllr Charles Gerrish	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Jon Rogers	Bristol City Council
Cllr Elfan Ap Rees	North Somerset Council
Cllr Mathew Riddle (Chair)	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Brian Allinson	South Gloucestershire Council

In Attendance

Sarah O'Driscoll	Bristol City Council
Karuna Tharmananthar	North Somerset Council
Barbara Maksymiw	South Gloucestershire Council
David Crook	GOSW
Terry Wagstaff	West of England Partnership
Laura Grady	West of England Partnership
Kirsten Berry	ERM

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following:

Cllr Vic Pritchard	Bath and North East Somerset
Cllr Mark Wright	Bristol City Council
David Trigwell	Bath and North East Somerset
Graham Sabourn	Bath and North East Somerset
Simon DeBeer	Bath and North East Somerset
Peter Dawson	Bath and North East Somerset
Glen Chipp	Bath and North East Somerset
David Bishop	Bristol City Council
Nick Hooper	Bristol City Council

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Member and Public Forum

There were no petitions, statements or questions presented to the board.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 18 March 2010

TW circulated a letter addressed to Nick Harvey MP from CLG regarding the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).

TW had spoken with a Chief Executive of a PCT who shared the concerns of the Councils and recognised that the matter would need to be considered alongside other local authority and health funding which support people with disabilities.

TW further explained that GOSW had confirmed civil servants were committed to raising the questions arising from DFG with the appropriate Minister, after the General Election. TW suggested that a letter be written to a senior civil servant after the election setting out how the DFG affects the sub-region and key issues that need to be addressed.

Cllr John Rogers advised that the Board should collectively write a partnership response as this is the best time to get our views on government policy heard.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

5. Joint Waste Core Strategy

LG presented the board with a report on the JWCS covering the issue of landfill and the proposed revised wording of Policy 8. LG advised the revised wording sought to clarify existing policy and make explicit the authorities commitment to meeting the sub-region's needs, with priority given to brownfield land. The revised wording provides the opportunity for proposals to come forward but also sets out where landfill cannot be permitted, resulting in a rounder policy.

The Board was informed that further investigations by Bristol City Council Officers had established that the future available capacity at the St Modwens landfill site, was uncertain and therefore it should be excluded from the existing capacity figures in the evidence base. This has led to an increase in the required landfill capacity as set out in para 6.11.2 of appendix A.

The Board was recommended to approve a round of consultation for 6 weeks on the revised landfill policy and updated evidence base following the General Election.

Cllr Elfan Ap Rees requested that the wording in policy 8 should address protecting adjacent land from flooding, and any development on Greenfield land should seek to protect and enhance the area. LG clarified that the development management policies (11 & 12) of the Joint Waste Core Strategy are concerned with protection of land including flood risk and; that bullet 2b of Policy 8 sought a demonstrable improvement in the quality of the land.

Cllr Charles Gerrish requested that wording in para 6.10.1 of appendix A was changed to state that waste refers to industrial, commercial, municipal waste and inert waste, simply as a matter of clarification.

The board agreed to another round of consultation on the landfill section of the Joint Waste Core Strategy (Appendix A) including the proposed changes to Policy 8 and the updated evidence base on landfill capacity.

An additional paragraph, (para 6.8.12 at Appendix B) was proposed to clarify the spatial distribution in the JWCS. Whilst a cap cannot be put on the amount of residual waste to be treated, where there is market potential for more capacity a judgement will need to be made in particular considering the benefits of the spatial strategy as identified in the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Cllr Gerrish requested that the wording be amended to read “...and the potential for combined effects (in-combination), that adversely affect the sites of European Nature Conservation” in order to make the wording more accessible.

LG informed the Board that officers had been recommended by ERM (project managers and technical consultants to the JWCS) that changes made to Para 6.8.11-of the JWCS (Appendix B) provided clarification but no material change and therefore did not need to be subject to public consultation. The recommendation at Para 9 of the report to the Board was therefore changed to recommend that the proposed clarifying revisions to these paragraphs were adopted.

The Board agreed to the additional paragraph in Appendix B for the purpose of clarification.

LG outlined that the amendments to Appendix C were also a matter of clarification. The Board agreed to the proposed changes.

Cllr Gerrish requested clarification over the proposed expenditure on the JWCS for the forthcoming year. TW informed the board that due to an under spend in the JWCS budget for the last financial year, primarily due to undertaking the last few consultations in house, the JWCS should fall within the sub-regional budget providing a serious legal challenge does not occur.

6. Supplementary Planning Document

LG introduced the report which set out the proposed scope and timing of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). In accordance with the commitment in the MAA, the SPD, seeks to embody the Infrastructure Investment Delivery Plan, and to be a formal part of the planning policy framework so that it may be a material consideration when assessing development proposals.

BM requested that less emphasis be placed upon green infrastructure and urban design principles, Cllr App Rees supported this and requested that the document was streamlined and did not duplicate work undertaken by the UAs on Core Strategies. LG advised that the scope of the SPD would focus on infrastructure constraints and how these could be overcome to assist delivery of housing. The reference to green infrastructure and urban design principles would be in the context of ensuring appropriate scheme design and sustainable place making principles, which would strengthen the document when it came to assessing development proposals. Members acknowledged that high level place-making principles still needed to be referred to within the document. Cllr Allinson acknowledged that as a work in progress the SPD was travelling in the right direction, and that some further clarifying of the scope was required.

Cllr Gerrish expressed concerns that the preparation of the SPD would impact upon the B&NES position, this was a concern echoed by Cllr Ap Rees. TW advised that the timetable would accommodate publication of Core Strategies and the preparation of supporting evidence base material including Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments.

The Board endorsed the continuation of the SPD, and requested to be continually engaged.

7. Next Meeting.

Next meeting 13th July 2010, Council House, Bristol.