

## Policy Review Scrutiny Committee

| <b>Scrutiny Review Work Programme:</b>   |  |
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| <b>Impact of the Localism Bill on Planning and Housing Strategy</b>  |  |
| <b>Date Of Meeting</b>   | <b>Content of Meeting</b>  |
| 16 April 2012  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key lines of enquiry for project scope identified</li> </ul>  |
| 25 June 2012<br><br>Attended by<br>Paula Darlington, Corporate Director<br>Peter Baguley, Service Manager, Planning and Environment<br>Alison Bennett, Service Manager, Housing Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Housing and Planning Officers — further inform the scope</li> </ul> Agreed to split review into 2 strands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strand 1: Localism and Planning Policy</li> <li>• Strand 2: Localism and Housing Policy</li> </ul> Work programme agreed and project scope amended - attached  |
| Strand 1 meeting: 16 July 2012<br><br>Attended by Paula Darlington and Peter Baguley   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the National Planning Framework (NPPF) and identification of key policy areas where Member input would add value. Notes circulated.</li> </ul>  |
| Strand 2 meeting: 18 July 2012<br><br>Attended by Jenny Hollingsworth, Portfolio Holder and Alison Bennett, Strategic Housing Manager  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of policy areas linked to Housing Strategy where Member input would add value – the following were considered and the first three carried forward for further Scrutiny consultation :</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Homelessness strategy</li> <li>2) Tenancy Strategy</li> <li>3) Allocations to qualifying persons</li> <li>4) Access to the Ombudsman</li> </ol> |

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| <p>Strand 1 meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012</p> <p>Attended by Peter Baguley</p>                                   | <p>5) Discharge of duty into the private Sector (Portfolio Holder Decision)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve policy consultation work programme linked to the NPPF – key policies extracted from the Aligned Core Strategy and set out below in order of consideration:</li> <li>• Consider the Council’s policy on Habitats (Biodiversity) – <b>Policy 17</b></li> <li>• Receive an update on the likely timetable of site specific consultation on the Aligned Core Strategy</li> <li>• Consider whether the group would like to approach Calverton Parish Council to observe the Neighbourhood Planning process – PC Clerk contacted early Oct 2012 – outcome of request still awaited.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Strand 1 meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012</p> <p>Attended by Darrell Pulk, Portfolio Holder and Peter Baguley.</p> | <p>Met with Portfolio Holder Pulk to discuss the following interim recommendation:</p> <p>‘That a Policy Sub Group of the Planning Committee be established to take forward Member engagement in the design of the site specific consultation for the Aligned Core Strategy, have an input to generic development control policies and to commence the ongoing review of the Aligned Core Strategy itself.’ – <b>this recommendation was not accepted as was not deemed to be constitutionally viable).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred to next meeting: review of policy relating to the Green Belt – <b>Policy 3</b></li> </ul>   |
| <p>Strand 2 meeting: 22nd November 2012</p> <p>Attended by Alison Bennett</p>  | <p>Consider the following draft Housing Strategies and policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness Strategy</li> <li>• Housing Strategy</li> <li>• Tenancy Strategy</li> <li>• Allocations to qualifying persons</li> </ul>   |

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|  | All policies were reviewed at the meeting, comments taken on board and referred on to Cabinet and Council for adoption.   |
| <b>Date of meeting</b>   | <b>Content of meeting</b>   |
| Strand 1 meeting: 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2012 (tbc)<br><br><b>Meeting cancelled in the light of the Special Policy Review Committee consultation on the Aligned Core Strategy 6<sup>th</sup> December</b> | Review policies on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Green Belt – <b>Policy 3</b></li> <li>• Housing – <b>Policy 8</b></li> <li>• Growth – <b>Policy 4*</b></li> </ul> <p>* subject to time available - may be a separate meeting</p> <p><b>Consideration of the above three policies to be carried over to the next meeting</b></p>  |
| Strand 1 meeting 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2013<br><br>Attended by Peter Baguley   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of work programme</li> <li>• Consideration of associated consultation and recommendations about the Aligned Core Strategy</li> </ul> <p><b>A) Policy Scrutiny recommendations on ACS 6<sup>th</sup> December: Considered by Cabinet on 10 Jan – PF holder response due by 10 March.</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 1</b></p> <p>To recommend that Cabinet reconsiders whether it wishes to give weight to the inclusion of windfall provision.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 2</b></p> <p>To register concern that some of the changes listed in the Schedule of Changes</p> |

would appear to weaken the Council's position against developers. For example:

- Schedule of Changes (policy 1.1) concerning the viability and feasibility of development proposals complying with climate change issues;
- Schedule of Changes (paragraph 3.6.9) concerning the sequential approach to retail development; and
- Schedule of Changes (policy 17.3) concerning the impact of development on wildlife and biodiversity sites.

### **Recommendation 3**

To recommend that consideration be given to the deleted policies listed in Appendix E of the Publication Version of the Aligned Core Strategies (pages 208 – 214), where appropriate, to explore whether the content should be included in a future generic development control policies development plan document or supplementary planning document.

### **Recommendation 4**

To inform the Cabinet that in noting the report the committee expressed its disappointment at the lack of time available to undertake a comprehensive review.

### **B) Recommendations of Overview Scrutiny Committee for inclusion in final report of the working group.**

- i. The Council should seek to establish clear mechanisms to encourage the involvement of Ward Members and local interest groups in the development of detailed local plans.
- ii. Ward Members should be involved in local plans as soon the Council is approached.

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|   | <p>iii. The authority should establish a protocol and on-going process by which planning officers will work with Elected Members and the community.</p> <p><b>Consideration of Green Belt Policy 3</b></p> <p>(Housing Policy 8 and Growth Policy 4 deferred to next meeting)</p> |
| <p>Strand 1 meeting 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013</p> <p>Attended by Peter Baguley</p> | <p>Review Policies on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Housing Policy 8</b></li><li>• <b>Growth Policy 4</b></li></ul> <p>Agree winding up of review</p>   |