

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 10th September 2019

Present: Councillor Ian Jelley (Chair)
Councillors Linda Adams, Cedwien Brown and Ruth Groome

19.PP.08 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair, Councillor Mike Tebbutt. Apologies were also received from Councillors Bain, Davies and Derbyshire.

19.PP.09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Ian Jelley and Cedwien Brown declared an interest in Item 7 as members of Rothwell Town Council.

Councillor Ruth Groome declared an interest as an employee of Northamptonshire County Council.

19.PP.10 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5th June 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

19.PP.11 MATTERS OF URGENCY

None.

19.PP.12 GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT (GTAA) 2019

A report was submitted that sought to inform the Committee of the Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) and the initiatives being explored to meet the accommodation needs identified.

Members noted a key change in the definition of gypsy and travellers provided by the August 2015 Planning Policy for Travellers, which removed the term “...who have ceased to travel permanently”. In essence this meant that families who had ceased to travel permanently would no longer fall under the planning definition of a Traveller for the purposes of assessing accommodation need as part of the GTAA.

The Committee’s attention was drawn to the headline future accommodation need findings for the Borough for the period 2018-2033. The conclusion drawn was that there was a requirement for 24 pitches for families meeting the planning definition and 24 pitches for those not meeting the definition.

A series of proposed actions to assist in meeting the needs identified in the GTAA were outlined to the meeting as follows:-

- Site extensions
- Delivering unimplemented sites
- New site allocations
- Strategic working
- Regularising sites occupied by non-Gypsy families
- Greater depth interviews with families

The Committee noted that specialist consultants would provide input into assist in the work required to the meet the need identified through the GTAA.

Cllr George Normand (Braybrooke PC) addressed the Committee and raised concerns regarding the robustness of the GTAA in relation to planning appeals. He stated that the document produced by Daventry District Council had recently been dissected at a planning appeal and there was a need to ensure that lessons were taken from that. He further stated that larger and denser sites that may arise as a result of any intensification or extension could prove more difficult to manage and encourage negative behaviours.

Cllr Hilary Bull (Broughton PC) spoke and stressed the need for any policy to have strong foundations and be clear and robust. Cllr Bull provided details of issues at the existing site near Broughton, including unresolved enforcement issues and stated that there was a perceived disregard by KBC for the established community.

Cllr Pat Scouse (Broughton PC) also spoke and questioned whether there would be two distinct policies, one for those families meeting the planning definition and one for those that did not. She also stated that there was a need for a clear, consistent set of rules going forward.

Members took the above points into consideration and asked questions in relation to the definition of travellers as well as noting that any policy

had to work for both the traveller and settled communities and be clear and cohesive.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The contents of the report relating to the GTAA be noted; and
- (ii) That officers seek to progress the proposed actions going forward as suggested in the report to help meet the gypsy and traveller accommodation need.

19.PP.13 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

A report was submitted which sought to agree an update to the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS); and to recommend that the scheme be submitted to Council for adoption.

The meeting heard that the document itself was a project plan providing a timetable for the preparation of documents for KBC's contribution towards the North Northamptonshire Development Plan. The last LDS was adopted in April 2018 and the revised document had been updated to reflect the progress and slippage to the previous programme.

Details of the remaining programme for producing the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2) were provided, with the LDS to be adopted ahead of the publication of the pre-submission plan. It was anticipated that a draft SSP2 would be submitted to the November committee meeting.

In relation to the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy, it was hoped that a Draft Plan for consultation would be available by December 2019 with a clearer Publication Plan by April 2020. It was anticipated that Submission of the Policy would be made in July 2020, with Examination of the document in September and adoption by April 2021.

Once the SSP2 had been adopted it was proposed that the Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan be reviewed, it was anticipated that this would take place in early 2021.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the draft Local Development Scheme as set out in the report be agreed
- (ii) the draft Local Development Scheme be recommended to Council for adoption.

19.PP.14 NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A report was submitted which sought Member agreement for the North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to be presented to Council for adoption.

The meeting noted that preparation of the SCI had been led by the Joint Planning Unit with input from the four partner local authorities. The SCI set out how consultation and engagement in the preparation of Local Plan documents would take place, as well as in determining planning applications. The current SCI was last adopted in February 2014.

Although there was no requirement to consult on the revised document a decision had been made to undertake a focussed consultation to allow for wider stakeholder input. A total of seven responses had been received and details of issues addressed were highlighted in the report. Members asked questions in relation to the consultation process other than internet-based responses. It was explained a variety of methods to consult are used, including providing paper copies of documents and attending group meetings.

The meeting noted that the revised SCI would be taken to each of the partner authorities for adoption, having been presented to the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee on 25th July.

RESOLVED that the revised Statement of Community Involvement be recommended to Council for adoption.

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.40pm)

Signed
Chair

DJP