

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

16 November 2016

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Allan Barclay, Dave Hunter, Jim Lindridge and Paul Thompson

Also present:

Representatives from the Rural Plan Committee

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Andrew Carter, Planning Services Manager
Antony Steinberg, Economic Regeneration Manager
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

36. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher.

37. Declarations of Interest

None.

38. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2016

Received.

39. Neighbourhood Planning (Hartlepool Rural Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2031) *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Forward Plan Reference No RN06/16.

Purpose of report

To consider the final draft of the Rural Neighbourhood Plan in line with the Council's statutory responsibility under the Localism Act 2011 to determine the conformity of Neighbourhood Plans with the 2006 Local Plan, the emerging Local Plan and national planning policy.

To note that the Local Planning Authority (LPA) must undertake duties relating to the publication of the Rural Plan and that following a formal eight week publication period, led by the Council, the Rural Plan will be subject to an independent examination, making revisions if appropriate and ultimately a referendum.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Planning Services Manager presented the report which outlined the statutory obligations the Local Planning Authority had a duty to fulfil throughout the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. Members were informed that the Planning Services and Heritage and Countryside teams had reviewed the draft Rural Plan and associated documents and were satisfied that the final draft complied with the relevant statutory requirements set out in European legislation and paragraph 6 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). It was noted that where a final draft Rural Plan met these requirements, the LPA must publicise the final draft Plan for a minimum of six weeks including an independent examination of the Plan and it was suggested that this be undertaken mid February 2017. Following the consultation and independent examination of the Plan, a further report incorporating any revised amendments to the Plan and the arrangements in relation to the holding of a referendum will be submitted to the Committee for notification. Clarification had been sought on the potential referendum area and it was confirmed that this would be the boundary of the Rural Plan area with everyone who lived in that area being given the opportunity to vote, the outcome of which would be determined by a simple majority.

A discussion ensued on the reference within the Plan to renewable and low carbon energy. A representative from the Rural Plan Committee commented that the issue of wind farms was an issue of worry for the local community but that the proposals within the Plan were the outcome of the consultation with the local community and were in line with the Local Plan proposals and existing wind farm site within the rural area.

In response to a question from a member of the public, the Planning Services Manager indicated that the consultation on the Rural Plan would take place in mid February 2017 to avoid any confusion with the emerging Local Plan proposed consultation timetable of December 2016 – February 2017.

Decision

1. The Committee endorsed the final draft of the Rural Neighbourhood Plan which was deemed to be in general conformity with national planning policy and the Local Authority's Development Plan (the Hartlepool Local Plan 2006 and the emerging Local Plan).
2. That Committee noted the duties that must be undertaken by the LPA with regards to publicising the plan and agreed to the eight week consultation process in line with the local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which goes beyond the statutory requirements.
3. That following the eight week publicity period and independent examination, a further update report incorporating any revised amendments to the Rural Plan and arrangements in relation to the holding of a referendum be brought back to the Committee for notification.

40. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The meeting concluded at 3.10 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 23 NOVEMBER 2016