



Meeting: Council

Date: Wednesday 14 September 2011

Subject: Local development framework (LDF): Core strategy ('The Eastbourne Local Plan') submission

Report of: Councillor Steve Wallis on behalf of the Cabinet

The Council is asked to consider the minute and resolution of the Cabinet meeting held on 7 September 2011 as set out below.

Further copies of the report to Cabinet are available on request – please see end of this report. A copy may be seen on the Council's website at:

<http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/council/meetings/cabinet/>

The Council is recommended to:-

Approve the core strategy document, as amended, for publication as a proposed submission core strategy for the formal statutory publicity and consultation requirements and the associated delegations to the Senior Head of Development and Environment as set out in the resolution of Cabinet below.

**Minute Extract
CABINET 7 September 2011**

***38 Local development framework (LDF): Core strategy ('The Eastbourne Local Plan') submission** (Cabinet, 13 July 2011, page 62, minute 22)

- 38.1 Councillor Gordon Jenkins addressed the Cabinet expressing general support for the Core Strategy but indicating concerns that further details respect of some key sites in Sovereign Harbour should be included. In this respect he welcomed the proposal for a separate supplementary planning document for Sovereign Harbour. Councillor Ungar welcomed the approach to ensuring a mixture of housing in developments. He had concerns about the continuing viability of bus services in the Old Town and the potential development plans for St Elisabeth's Church.
- 38.2 Cabinet considered the report of the Senior Head of Development and Environment. The Eastbourne Local Plan (or LDF core strategy) had been shaped over the last 5 years by close consultation with local people and civic groups. The Council had also worked closely with our neighbours, Wealden District Council, to ensure that the enormous amount of research that had informed this plan was complementary for both of the administrative areas. From that work had grown a holistic plan that

would shape the future development of Eastbourne for the next 15 years. It was intended as a guide for the community to show where and how the town would grow and develop in the future. It would also be a guide for decision makers and developers about what was likely to be acceptable by way of proposed developments.

- 38.3 The main spirit of the Eastbourne Local Plan (LDF core strategy) spatial strategy was to stimulate regeneration and renewal of the town centre, delivering sufficient improvements to the provision of community facilities at Sovereign Harbour and protecting its green heart at Eastbourne Park as well as the areas of outstanding natural beauty that have been incorporated into the South Downs National Park. Therefore the majority housing would take place on land that had already previously been developed. A modest number of small greenfield sites had also been identified as having potential for housing, but these had been assessed as being of low value and poor quality. Higher residential densities would also be supported in some of the town's most sustainable neighbourhoods: Old Town, Meads, Upperton, Langney and Seaside, subject to the usual design and conservation policy requirements.
- 38.4 As well as incorporating the changes outlined in the previously approved consultation report, (Cabinet, 13 July 2011), this latest proposed submission version included the following:
Updated housing figures following the latest returns on housing delivery, windfalls and known developments.
Contingency policies should the housing market not recover as quickly as anticipated and expected housing delivery targets are not being met.
Stronger emphasis on maximising the opportunities for renewable energy in new developments.
A stronger focus on positively planning for the future by changing the neighbourhood visions into policies, and strengthening the infrastructure delivery proposals.
Other policy updates to reflect the recently issued draft national planning policy framework as well as recommendations made following a 'technical health check' by legal specialists.
- 38.5 An addendum to the report was circulated at the meeting providing additional information on 2 important matters. First, it was noted that a separate supplementary planning document would now be produced for Sovereign Harbour to amplify and formalise the vision and policy for this neighbourhood and articulate ways in which the neighbourhood would become a sustainable centre. Second, an additional section within appendix B (monitoring framework) was submitted to deal with policies C1 to C14 which were required to be monitored against targets using a range of indicators. Also, it was noted that an adjustment of the boundary of the town centre neighbourhood to align it with the boundary of the town centre area action plan would be made. The amended town centre boundary would result in a series of other minor but necessary diagrammatic and textual changes needing to be made. In addition a number of minor changes and corrections would be made including some arising from comments made by the Planning Committee when they considered the plan at their meeting on 1 September, 2011 (the Old Town key diagram being amended to show two key pedestrian/cycle links into the South Down National Park and additional text in Policy D8 making

reference to motorised two-wheeled vehicles). These would be dealt with under the proposed delegation to the Head of Service to make minor amendments before publication.

- 38.6 Cabinet was requested to recommend to full Council that the proposed submission version of the Eastbourne Local Plan (as amended) be approved as a basis for publication and a final opportunity for the community to make representations on its soundness. It was also recommended that the LDF Steering Group considered a summary of the representations made and the need for further changes before the final document was submitted to the Secretary of State in February 2012 for public examination later in the year.
- 38.7 In the interests of economy the full text of the proposed submission core strategy document had not been printed with the agenda. Copies were placed in the Members' Room, on the Council's website at and at the Town Hall reception for inspection purposes. Members of the Cabinet and the Planning Committee, the opposition leader and spokesperson had been sent copies.
- 38.8 Subject to approval by full Council on 14 September the plan would be published for interested parties to make formal representations based on the soundness of the plan. After the 12 week consultation period (16 September to 9 December) had ended the Council would consider the representations made. The legislation allowed the Council to then make fairly minor changes to the plan before formally publishing the submission version again for formal consideration and deliberation by the planning inspectorate at public examination (expected February 2012).
- 38.9 Members expressed their thanks to the Senior Head and his team for all their work undertaken in the preparation of the core strategy and for the contributions made by the members of the LDF steering group, other councillors, local organisations and stakeholders and to residents who had attended the public meetings held in the different neighbourhoods across the town.
- *38.1 **Resolved (budget and policy framework):** That full Council be
0 recommended to:
- (1) Approve the core strategy document, as amended, for publication as a proposed submission core strategy for the formal statutory publicity and consultation requirements.
 - (2) Approve the grant of delegated authority to the Senior Head of Development and Environment in consultation with the lead Cabinet member to make minor amendments before publication.
 - (3) Agree that following the end of the representation period the Senior Head of Development and Environment be given delegated authority in consultation with the members of the LDF steering group, to submit the core strategy to the government.

For a copy of the report please contact Local Democracy at the Town Hall,
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