



**Meeting: Council**

**Date: Wednesday 20 February 2013**

**Subject: Eastbourne core strategy local plan**

**Report of: Councillor Steve Wallis on behalf of the Cabinet**

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The Council is asked to consider the minute and resolution of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 February 2013 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 (go to meeting date 6 February 2013):

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

In addition, a copy of the final version of the plan can be found at (go to meeting date 20 February 2013):

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

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**The Council is recommended to:-**

**Adopt the Eastbourne core strategy local plan and policies map.**

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**\*79 Eastbourne core strategy local plan** (Cabinet, 18 April 2012, page 364, minute 114, 2011/12 minutes).

- 79.1 Cabinet considered the report of the Senior Head of Development and Environment. The Eastbourne local plan (previously known as the local development framework (LDF) core strategy) had been shaped over the last 5 years by extensive consultation with local people and community groups. The Council had also worked closely with Wealden District Council, to ensure that the research that had informed the plan was complementary for both of the administrative areas. The plan (with its associated policies map) 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. The plan would replace some but not all of the existing borough plan policies.
- 79.2 The plan had been prepared in accordance with the relevant government regulations and had been submitted to the government on 31 January

2012 for examination in public (EIP) which had commenced on 16 May. The inspector had requested an additional 6 weeks of publicity on 3 sets of proposed amendments (main modifications) to the proposed submission version of the plan to enable stakeholders and interested parties a further opportunity to make representations. The inspector's final report was received on 21 November 2012 and had been made available for public viewing. Planning Committee, at their meeting on 5 February 2013, supported the plan and made no further comments.

- 79.3 Overall the Inspector had found that, subject to incorporation of her specified modifications, the core strategy was a 'sound' plan and could be adopted for use by the Council for judging planning applications. The inspector supported the Council's approach to balancing sustainable development and conservation of the natural and built environment with growth and regeneration. She commented that the *"neighbourhood approach placed sustainability and the issues important to the local community at the heart of the strategy."* She had concluded that it represented a positive strategy which was consistent with the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The Council was also praised for its approach to collaborative working with other authorities with an interest in the future of the area. Objections from some landowners for additional sites to be included on the fringes of Eastbourne Park and on open land adjacent to the borough boundary had been rejected. The inspector had commented that *"The Park's capacity for flood storage together with its archaeological, biodiversity and landscape sensitivity justify its safeguarding for flood management and its protection from the impact of development."*
- 79.4 Modifications required in order for the plan to be adopted, included a commitment to an early review (within 2 years) of the need and demand for employment space; updated information regarding housing numbers; further clarification on the sequential approach for new retail development; a commitment to meet the local needs of gypsies and travellers; and additional references to the presumption in favour of sustainable development. (The Council had already consulted on these modifications between May-October 2012.)
- 79.5 The final version of strategy with required modifications shown with tracked changes, was available for viewing on the Council's website, at the Town Hall reception and in the Members' Room. A list of all changes was detailed in an appendix to the report. The policies map was displayed at the meeting. After adoption by full Council, the Eastbourne core strategy local plan would form the strategic development plan for determining planning applications along with saved policies from the borough plan (2003). Further supplementary planning documents and area action plans which were in conformity with the core strategy could also now be formally endorsed.
- 79.6 On behalf of the Cabinet, the Chairman expressed his appreciation to those who had played a part in the development of the plan and the other supplementary planning documents presented at this meeting, including

planning officers, members of the Local Development Steering Group and everyone who had participated in the public consultations.

\*79.7 **Resolved (budget and policy framework)** (1) That full Council be recommended to adopt the Eastbourne core strategy local plan and policies map.

(2) That the Senior Head of Development and Environment, in consultation with the lead Cabinet member, be given delegated authority to make any amendments before publication including any changes to the supplementary planning documents the subject of separate minutes below.

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For a copy of the report please contact Local Democracy at 1 Grove Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4TW. Tel. (01323) 415022 or 415021.  
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