

No.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor S.D. Perkes (Chair); Councillors C.E.A. Champion, P. Drake, V.P. Driscoll, A.M. Ernest, M.J. Hooper, C. Iannucci, S. Lloyd-Selby, E. Penn, I.A.N. Perry and S.T. Wiliam.

Also present: Councillors A. Asbrey, I.R. Buckley, C.P. Franks, J. Protheroe and N.C. Thomas.

### 49 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

### 50 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR –

**RESOLVED – T H A T** Councillor I.A.N. Perry be appointed Vice-Chair for the Municipal year.

### 51 MINUTES –

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### 52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

### 53 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2026: SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE ON RETAIL AND TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT LAND AND PREMISES – MEMBER BRIEFING SESSION FEEDBACK (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 as contained within the agenda was presented by the Principal Planner.

No.

Cabinet had previously received a report of 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, which outlined the need to prepare new Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) in accordance with the monitoring framework of the adopted Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011- 2026 (LDP). The report sought approval to undertake a 6-week public consultation on a batch of update/new SPGs in respect of the following topics:

- Retail and Town Centre Development; and
- Economic Development, Employment Land and Premises.

In accordance with minute C80, the 6-week public consultation exercise on the draft SPGs took place between Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 with the relevant documentation being made available at the main Council offices and on the Council's website.

Cabinet had considered a subsequent report on the Consultation feedback, Proposed Changes and Adoption on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2023, where the results of the consultation undertaken on the draft Retail and Town Centre Development SPG and Economic Development, Employment Land and Premises SPG were considered. At that meeting, it was resolved to approve the amended SPGs for use in development management decisions alongside the adopted Local Development Plan (Cabinet Minute C245).

Following the 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 Cabinet meeting, it was identified that the Member briefing session referenced in the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 Cabinet report was not held as envisaged. In order to allow Members further opportunity to comment on the documents, a Member briefing session was held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023, to which all Members were invited.

The report therefore detailed the issues raised as part of the briefing session and the response to the matters raised. Following a consideration of the issues, it was determined that no further amendments were required to the SPG documents.

In reply to a query regarding wider consultation with the retail section, the Principal Planner advised that between October and December last year, the Council did target a number of retailers within town centres. The new SPGs also went to Chambers of Trade and a range of stakeholders including the Public Service Board and Town and Community Councils. As part of that, the SPGs were available on the Council's website and advertised on social media.

Councillor A. Ernest commented that he was disappointed that some of the points raised through the consultation exercise and from the Members' briefing session were not considered further. In reply, the Principal Planner advised that amendments to the SPGs had been made following the public consultation. The Appendix to the report also outlined specifically how each point raised during the Members' briefing was taken into account.

Councillor I. Perry queried whether the SPGs would be reviewed in line with the adoption of the Council's new Local Development Plan. Councillor Perry commented that the SPGs and new LDP would also have to be amended to reflect Welsh Government policies relating to environment and climate change and needed

No.

to have more reference to sustainable communities. In reply, the Principal Planner advised that in terms of planning applications, they had to be determined in accordance with the LDP. SPGs helped support that. It was also important to consider that aims of SPGs were not to be so prescriptive that there was not any flexibility, for example in terms long term empty units in town centres. With regards to sustainable developments, guidance would cover the need for building materials to be sustainable, but it had to be at a right level of prescription otherwise some schemes may be unviable, which also in some circumstances had to be weighed against the need for affordable housing.

Members of the Committee raised further comment regarding the importance for new developments to be more architecturally pleasing and that builders and developers would be required to work within current regulations.

In terms of reviewing the new SPGs, the Principal Planner stated that the Council would make sure that these were updated to reflect policies and emerging policies in the replacement LDP.

Subsequently, it was

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the contents of the report and the feedback made as part of the Member briefing session as detailed in Appendix 1 be noted and that no further amendments should be made to the Supplementary Planning Guidance document.

#### Reason for recommendation

Having considered the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

#### 54 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKING 2022/23 AND PROPOSED ANNUAL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2023/24 (DCR) –

The report advised Members of progress in relation to the Scrutiny Committee's historical recommendations and the proposed Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24.

The 2019-20 Uncompleted Recommendation Tracking was attached at Appendix A to the report, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (October – December 2022) Uncompleted Recommendation Tracking was attached at Appendix B to the report, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (January – March 2023) Uncompleted Recommendation Tracking was attached at Appendix C to the report, the Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme 2023/24 at Appendix D to the report, and the proposed Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24 was attached at Appendix E to the report.

The Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer referred to two recent site visits, the first to the Waste Transfer site in Cowbridge and the second to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre in Barry. On the back of those, a third visit was being arranged

No.

for 14<sup>th</sup> July to the Viridor Plant in Cardiff. That would commence at 10am, and further details would be promulgated in due course.

The Committee were also asked to consider areas for further review. Councillor A. Ernest requested an update report relating to the Council's Tree Strategy. The Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer agreed to discuss that with the Director of Place

In terms of Task and Finish Review work, the Chair suggested a topic entitled - 15 Minute Communities. That related to joined up town centres including redevelopment / regeneration encompassing economy, environment, sustainable transport, tourism, retail and amenities. It would also look at how rural communities could be supported. The Committee agreed for that topic suggestion to be passed to the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group for further consideration.

Having considered the contents of the report, it was

#### RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendices A to C to the report be agreed.

(2) T H A T the Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme for 2023/24, attached at Appendix D to the report, in the context of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Annual Forward Work Programme 2023/24, be noted.

(3) T H A T the Committee's proposed Annual Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24, attached at Appendix E to the report, be approved and uploaded to the Council's website.

(4) T H A T a Task and Finish Review suggestion entitled "15 Minute Communities" be referred to the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group for further consideration to ascertain whether the suggestion is progressed.

#### Reason for recommendations

(1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.

(2) To align with section 7.6 of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Roles and Responsibilities Protocol.

(3) For public information.

(4) In order to allow the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group to consider topics for Task and Finish review activities.