

JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT LOXLEY HOUSE, FROM 9.45 AM TO 10.50 AM

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- ✓ Councillor Butler (Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Greaves (for minute 15 to 19 inclusive)
- ✓ Councillor Heptinstall
- ✓ Councillor Jackson (for minute 12 to 18 inclusive)

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

- ✓ Councillor Urquhart (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Clark
- ✓ Councillor Longford
- ✓ Councillor Malcolm (for minute 14 to minute 19 inclusive)

- ✓ Indicates present at meeting

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

14 MINUTES

RESOLVED that subject to amending minute 7, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy, resolution (2) to read; that Councillor Butler would write to the City Council to invite a representative to sit on the Joint Waste Management Committee, the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2011, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

15 REVIEW OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to a report of the Joint Officer Steering Group presented by Ms Gill, Nottinghamshire County Council, copies of which had been circulated.

A review of the protocol was required to take place every two years and was overdue. However, it was considered more appropriate for this review to be undertaken following the enactment of the Localism Bill and approval of the National Planning Policy

Framework which would be affected by the abolishment of the Regional Spatial Strategies. The Localism Bill was due for enactment before the end of 2011.

RESOLVED that no changes be made to the Protocol at the present time but that a review would be undertaken in six months.

16 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)

Further to minute 5, dated 24 June 2011, consideration was given to a report of the Joint Officer Steering Group presented by Mr Butterworth, Nottingham City Council, copies of which had been circulated.

The Government published the draft NPPF on 25 July 2011 with views being sought by 17 October 2011 with a view to having the Framework in place by April 2012. The areas summarised included:

- the emphasis of the new NPPF was pro-growth and it sought to be pro-development with the default response to development proposals being yes except where this would compromise key sustainable development principles or any adverse impacts of the development would outweigh the benefits when assessed against the NPPF;
- sustainable development in planning terms was described as being:
 - planning for prosperity (economic) to build a strong, responsive and competitive economy by ensuring the availability of sufficient suitable land for development;
 - planning for people (social) by using the planning system to promote strong, vibrant and health communities;
 - planning for places (environmental) to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment;
- Local Planning Authorities (LPA) were required to produce one plan for the whole of its area and these should cover up to a 15 year period but also be flexible. The plans should not threaten the viability of development and should have a viability test to ensure they were not too onerous for development;
- joint working – LPAs had a duty to co-operate on planning issues which crossed administrative boundaries which was already being undertaken in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

During discussion of the proposed response, as detailed in the report, the following areas of concern were highlighted:

- there had been a failure in the Government's draft NPPF to define what was meant by sustainable development in plain English and clarification was needed on how to balance the conflicting demands between social, economic and sustainability needs;
- the emphasis was pro-growth and development but this conflicted directly with protection for green belt areas versus housing need. Clear guidance was needed on how to balance these conflicting needs and how this would be linked into Neighbourhood Plans;

- the approval route for Neighbourhood Plans also appeared to be costly and bureaucratic as they would be approved by a government inspector. There was no guidance on how and who would be developing these plans, where the resources would be coming from to support their development and what powers the Council would have if these plans were in conflict with its own proposals;
- the joint response had to be strengthened in relation to the increased number of housing need and availability especially given that it appeared the green belt would retain the same level of protection with the presumption of approval being on white land rather than green belt;
- there was concern that the development on former employment and commercial sites for housing would impact on the potential loss of employment opportunities, and create additional congestion and pollution;
- there was not enough understanding of the financial implications for County Councils who were mainly responsible for schools and highways etc, when developments were taking place within districts.

RESOLVED that consideration be given to the comments made and that a copy of the draft joint response be agreed by the Chair and Vice-Chair and circulated to all members of this Committee.

17 GREATER NOTTINGHAM JOINT PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD - UPDATE

Further to minute 10 dated 24 June 2011, consideration was given to a report of the Joint Officer Steering Group presented by Mr Gregory, Nottingham City Council, copies of which had been circulated.

A summary was provided in the appendices to the report relating to the progress of the preparation of the Aligned Core Strategies across Greater Nottingham and the implementation of the New Growth Point infrastructure which was overseen by the Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

18 JOINT WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT AND OTHER WASTE PLANNING ISSUES

Further to minute 7 dated 24 June 2011, consideration was given to a report of the Joint Officer Steering Group presented by Mr Allum, Nottinghamshire County Council, copies of which had been circulated.

The preferred approach document set out the Council's proposals for how and where all of the waste produced in Nottinghamshire would be managed. This provided the final opportunity for consultees and local communities to support or challenge what was proposed prior to final decisions being made and the draft plan being submitted to Government for independent examination by the end of the year. The key proposals in the preferred approach included:

- an ambitious target of 70% for recycling of municipal, commercial and industrial waste by 2025;

- larger facilities to be built in the main urban areas of Nottingham, Mansfield and Ashfield with smaller facilities in the market towns of Newark, Worksop and Retford;
- the balance to go to energy from waste plants with disposal being reduced to around 10%;
- resource recovery parks were also encouraged.

It was confirmed that 180 responses had been received from the public with a range of responses in relation to the co-location of waste facilities at power stations and opposition to incinerators.

RESOLVED that the progress of the Joint Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy be noted.

19 TRANSPORT ISSUES - UPDATE

Further to minute 8 dated 24 June 2011, consideration was given to a report of the Joint Officer Steering Group presented by Mr Carter, Nottingham City Council, copies of which had been circulated.

- confirmation was received on 5 July 2011 from the Secretary of State for approval of £4.925 million for Nottingham's Urban Area Local Sustainable Transport Fund Key Component bid (100% of the bid);
- the £11 million bid for Nottingham Urban Area Local Sustainable Transport Fund had been shortlisted for the next stage;
- other topics discussed included the progress of major schemes including the dualling of the A453, Nottingham City ring road improvements and Hucknall Town Centre improvements and progress of Nottingham Express Transit Phase Two.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

20 RAIL ISSUES - UPDATE

Further to minute 9 dated 24 June 2011, consideration was given to a report of the Joint Officers Steering Group presented by Mr Bamford, copies of which had been circulated. An update on the progress was provided in relation to:

- the Regional Growth Fund bid for £20,650,000 bid was submitted by East Midlands Trains on 30 June 2011;
- the car park built at Nottingham Station was making good progress and on course for completion by May 2012;
- infrastructure improvements by Network Rail on a number of schemes to raise speed limits for example Nottingham to Leeds line to reduce journey time by 25 minutes etc;
- local timetable changes were reported for a range of services as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.