

At a meeting of the PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 22ND JULY, 2008 at 5.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor J. Scott in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, M. Forbes, E. Gibson, Howe, O'Connor, Snowdon, J. Walton, S. Watson, A. Wilson, D. Wilson, Wood and A. Wright.

Declarations of Interest

Item 8 – Sunderland Central Area Urban Design Strategy

Councillor A. Wilson declared a personal interest in the item as an employee of Tesco.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Blackburn, Chamberlin, I. Cuthbert, D. Forbes, G. Hall, T. Martin, Miller, Tate, Tye, Wakefield and Wares.

Appointment of Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Elaine Waugh, Senior Assistant City Solicitor, requested nominations from the floor for a Chairman to chair this particular meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee. Councillor J. Scott having been nominated and duly seconded, it was:

1. RESOLVED that Councillor J. Scott be appointed Chairman for this meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee.

Minutes

2. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 24th June, 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of apologies for absence from Councillors Fletcher and Wakefield.

Report of the Meeting of the Development Control (North Sunderland) Sub-Committee

The report of the meeting of the Development Control (North Sunderland) Sub-Committee held on 1st July, 2008 (copy circulated) was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the meeting of the Development Control (South Sunderland) Sub-Committee

The report of the meeting of the Development Control (South Sunderland) Sub-Committee held on 1st July, 2008 (copy circulated) was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the meeting of the Development Control (Hetton, Houghton and Washington) Sub-Committee

The report of the meetings of the Development Control (Hetton, Houghton and Washington) Sub-Committee held on 1st July, 2008 (copy circulated) was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

5. RESOLVED that the reports be received and noted.

Easington Local Development Framework (Preferred Options) Core Strategy, Response to Consultation

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) seeking approval for an Officer response to the above consultation which had been forwarded to Easington District Council to meet the deadline of 27th June, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Keith Lowes, Head of Planning and Environment, presented the report and updated the Committee on two issues that had arisen following its preparation.

Firstly, Members were advised that during the previous week it had been announced by the Department of Communities and Local Government that Housing Growth Point Status had been granted to the area of South East Durham which included Easington District. This would see a potential 75% increase in dwellings above that already contained in the RSS allocation.

In addition with regard to paragraph 5.11, Mr. Lowes advised that planning permission was to be sought for a film studio in respect of the 72 hectares of land south of Seaham. The fact that it was unlikely that the studio would be located elsewhere in the region, tempered Sunderland's response, that the allocation of this land for employment use may have a detrimental impact on Sunderland's ability to deliver economic led regeneration to the employment sites within the conurbation. Indeed, as Sunderland University was a partner in the film studio project there was a possibility of benefits accruing to the City.

Members having given consideration to the report it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the comments detailed in the report be approved and that the report be forwarded to the District of Easington Council as constituting the consultation response of the City Council.

Sunderland Central Area Urban Design Strategy

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) which advised Members of the responses received following consultation on the proposed policies and proposals outlined in the Sunderland Central Area Urban Design Strategy Consultation Draft (SCAUDS) and of Cabinet's decision on 9th July, 2008 to adopt the resulting amended SCAUDS as a Supplementary Planning document.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that the report and amended SCAUDS be noted.

The Chairman closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance.

(Signed) J. SCOTT,
Chairman.