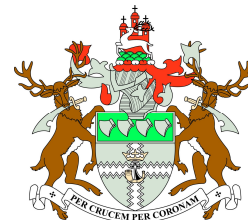


Supplementary Council Agenda



Epping Forest District Council

Council Tuesday, 18th December, 2012

Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping
Room: Council Chamber
Time: 7.30 pm
Committee Secretary: Council Secretary: Ian Willett
Tel: 01992 564243 Email:
democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

6. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET (Pages 267 - 272)

To receive reports from the Leader and members of the Cabinet on matters falling within their area of responsibility:

- (a) Report of the Leader;
- (b) Report of the Asset Management and Economic Development Portfolio Holder;
- (c) Report of the Environment Portfolio Holder;
- (d) Report of the Finance and Technology Portfolio Holder;
- (e) Report of the Housing Portfolio Holder;
- (f) Report of the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder;
- (g) Report of the Planning Portfolio Holder;
- (h) Report of the Safer, Greener and Highways Portfolio Holder;
- (i) Report of the Support Services Portfolio Holder.

13A REPORT OF THE CABINET – LOUGHTON CCTV (Pages 273 – 274)

To consider the attached report.

This page is intentionally left blank

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Subject: Planning Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Richard Bassett

Date: 18 December 2012

Recommending:

That the report of the Planning Portfolio Holder be noted

Local Plan

Work on the Local Plan is continuing and we will have input all the issues and options consultation responses into the analysis system by the end of December. We have started work on the analysis and on the data for the workshops that I mentioned last month. As well as District, Council Councillors and MPs there will be an invite for one Town and Parish representative per Council. I will send a formal invite to all parties in early January but I am now in a position to explain the draft content of the workshops.

Saturday January 26th 10:00 am to 16:00 (Waltham Abbey Town Hall). This will involve presentations and discussions of the evidence and its implications across the district, and for different places in the district. Participants will explore different ways of addressing the key issue of growth for the future within the context of the wider evidence base. The results of Workshop 1 will be analysed and reported back to participants and inform workshop 2.

Saturday February 9th 10:00 am to 16:00 (Waltham Abbey Town Hall.) This will explore the impact of the plan vision and objectives, on the choices for growth and broad locations for development. Discussion on emerging policy themes and priorities critical to deciding the future of the district will take place. The roles of individual towns and the suitable directions of development for them will be explored.

Saturday March 2nd 10:00 am to 16:00 (Epping Town Hall). This will address the future of towns in more fine grain and this will involve testing the likely future impact of different policy choices against the Council's aspirations for the futures of settlements and the rural areas. Participants will focus on a small number of settlements but will be able to comment on the work of others.

In order to be most effective it is requested that you sign up for all three workshops as these are intended to be a programme of workshops and consistent input is desirable. Lunch and light refreshments will be provided

A further fourth workshop will be held later in the year that will consider the implications of further evidence and a preferred option for the emerging Local Plan to be published in Late Summer/ Early Autumn 2013 for consultation.

As requested by several members I have also asked the Forward Planning team to compile a list of the "Brownfield" sites they have considered as part of the Local Plan process and it is hoped that this will help members identify any which were not identified in the SLAA part of the process. If any new sites are identified please let me know so they could be considered. I would remind members that brownfield sites which would accommodate less than six houses would not be part of the identification process as they are considered as windfall sites and applications for these normally appear through the normal planning process.

Population Projections

As we are aware one of the key areas of the local plan is the decision over population growth and I have been informed that Essex Country Council is arranging for an Essex Planning Officer Association Demography Workshop for officers and selected Member representatives from the Districts. The date for this will be the second half of January (Date to be confirmed). This workshop will be key as it would look at updates to the population modelling and would include data from the June 2011 Census.

Growth Meeting with Harlow

On the 13th November, together with the Leader and the Chief Executive, I met with our counterparts at Harlow Council. We agreed to cooperate on how both councils go forward focusing initially on planning and economic development. The initial meeting was very positive and we have arranged for a follow up meeting to discuss possible development proposals on the boundaries of Harlow and Epping Forest on the 18th January.

With the importance of cross boundary consultation we are also trying to arrange a similar meeting with Uttleford and are awaiting an agreed date.

Northern Gateway Access Package (NGAP)

As mentioned last month the North East Enfield Area Action Plan is part of a complex area plan of the London Borough of Enfield (LBE). It contains many proposals of merit, and where one might expect an adjacent Planning Authority would be supportive of the strategic approach and the tactics to be employed to achieve the intended actions. However as part of the package of changes the London Borough of Enfield (LBE) have indicated they aspire to a direct or indirect route for traffic using the North South Road (A1055) or Mollison Avenue to the J26 M25.

In pursuing their aspiration LBE developed a scheme called Northern Gateway Access Road (NGAR) which was submitted for planning and other approvals some sixteen years ago. This was rejected on appeal and our views on the subject have not changed. At a special meeting of the Planning Scrutiny Panel members unanimously approved our objections to the scheme. The main objections were impact on the Green Belt, Lee Valley Regional Park and the traffic issues over a wide area of the district. For full details please see the minutes of the Scrutiny Panel meeting.

Further Cooperation meetings with outside bodies

As part of the duty to cooperate we are putting together a list of all the external bodies we are currently in discussions with or consulting/cooperating with for the Local Plan and I will circulate this as soon as

possible. However I would mention that I have a meeting planned with counterparts at Enfield and Broxbourne where we will be discussing

- Partner Updates, key elements of emerging strategies and plans (we will want to raise NGAP)
- Opportunities for joint working/ Focus on Productive Landscapes/Food Summit
- Current Structures for Liaison and coordination

Glasshouse Industries

Finally as part of the Local Plan we have been looking at strategies for the future of the Glasshouse industry. We have been looking at several options which range from Non-intervention, i.e. continuation of current planning policy where we see managing decline, to proactive intervention where we look at policy changes to support industry expansion.

We are currently putting together information on this which will be circulated. This would be included as part of consultation/discussions on Productive Landscapes which is very topical at the moment with various statements coming from the London Assembly on food supply issues in the coming years. Currently they have allocated £600k to London Borough of Enfield where they are investigating the issues and setting up schemes to increase/start food production. This will be discussed further at the meeting with Enfield and Broxbourne.

This page is intentionally left blank

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Subject: Asset Management and Economic Development Portfolio **Date: 18 December 2012**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Anne Grigg

Recommending:

That this supplement to the report of the Asset Management and Economic Development Portfolio Holder be noted.

Economic Development

The Council continues to be very active in promoting and supporting the local business community.

A new set of economic development priorities is being drafted to help shape, direct and lead the work of the Council and its partners over the short and medium term. The first draft of these priorities which has been put together following initial discussions with local business organisations, will be brought before Cabinet early in the New Year.

While looking to the strategic the Council and its partners have not lost sight of the practical. At this difficult economic time the Council has managed to find £35,000 of funding to enable Town Centre Partnerships and other bodies to put into place practical schemes to enhance High Street viability. Support has also been given to the Chamber of Commerce to enable them to rebuild their website, while the Council continues to support Free HMRC seminars with Tax and VAT guidance to local business start-ups.

Superfast Broadband will be a critical factor in ensuring the competitiveness of local businesses in the future. Epping Forest District will be hosting a Free Superfast Broadband event on 18 December on behalf of the West Essex Alliance. This will enable local business to hear at first hand how this technology might benefit them, and ask questions about access and roll out across the district.

Tourism is already a significant sector in the local economy with the potential for further growth. A tourism Task Force, run with the support of the Council has just launched a new website www.visiteppingforest.org. The major tourism and visitor attractions in the district have come together to build this website, which has already been visited by over 2,000 people while it was under development. A new joint leaflet will be printed soon and a tourism summit will be held on 31 January to enable businesses right across the sector to help shape future plans and strategies in this important area.

One Shops Local is nearing its first anniversary and has almost 250 local businesses signed up and is visited by over 700 people per month. This site, which has been developed in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses is being looked at by a number of other local authorities in order to promote their High Streets.

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 18 December 2012

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gary Waller

LOUGHTON CCTV

Recommending:

That a supplementary capital estimate of £10,000 in 2012/13 be approved to part fund the renewal and restructure of the current network of CCTV cameras covering High Road, Loughton and to extend the system northwards to cover the shopping parades both sides of the High Road between Brooklyn Avenue and Traps Hill.

1. The Loughton High Road CCTV system was completed in 2006 as part of the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme. The system currently comprises six cameras fitted to six dedicated columns between Old Station Road to the junction with Brooklyn Avenue. This also includes an Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) system part funded by Essex Police. Part of this joint funding agreement with the Police included the positioning of a digital recording system within the Police station in Loughton where the system still remains today.
2. We have been informed that the original six cameras are now approaching the end of their life span and are repeatedly being repaired. Currently five cameras are operational and two re-deployable cameras loaned from Essex Police have been installed in the High Road to cover the area usually monitored by the sixth camera.
3. In the past, Essex Police provided a broadband telephone connection which allowed remote access to the CCTV system from the Civic Offices. However, this has since been withdrawn which has resulted in increased officer time attending Loughton Police Station to maintain the system and carry out downloads. Following the successful upgrade of CCTV at Loughton Broadway, we are proposing to link both systems wirelessly to allow officers to also control and maintain the Loughton system from the Civic Offices.
4. Loughton High Road is the second busiest CCTV system in the District in relation to requests for downloads. In 2011 Safer Communities were asked to carry out 30 download requests on behalf of Essex Police and in the period January to October 2012 we have already provided 20 downloads. There is a vibrant night time economy in the High Road and there is an identified need for improved cameras which have a stronger day and night time capability to enhance image quality.
5. It had originally been intended to extend the High Road CCTV System within the third phase of the town centre enhancement scheme. However, this was not undertaken and there are therefore no cameras northwards from Brooklyn Avenue to the York Hill Junction. We have, therefore, investigated the possibility of extending the existing system in the High Road at the same time as undertaking the required refurbishment.

6. The refurbishment and extension of the High Road Scheme which we wish to pursue includes an increase in cameras from the current six to twenty three, including a mixture of static, moving and mega-pixel cameras. The installation will also include four new CCTV columns, subject to planning permission, extending the system to cover the shopping parades on both sides of the High Road between Brooklyn Avenue and Traps Hill. The repositioning of existing and new cameras will be based upon Crime Pattern Analysis and other intelligence sources collated over the last two years, and all work would be carried out utilising existing infrastructure where possible. Our proposals are supported by Essex Police.

7. We have been advised that the estimated cost of upgrading and extending the CCTV systems is £45,000. We are proposing that this capital expenditure can be met by:

- (a) a virement of £15,000 from the remaining Loughton Broadway CCTV capital budget;
- (b) the use of £14,000 of Loughton related section 106 monies already received;
- (c) re-designating £6,000 of the existing revenue budget as capital; and
- (d) seeking a supplementary capital estimate of £10,000 to fund the balance.

8. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.