



Coventry City Council

Council Meeting

30 October 2007

Booklet 2

Recommendation Minutes

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CABINET

23rd October 2007

Cabinet Members Present:-
Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Blundell
Councillor Foster
Councillor Matchet
Councillor Noonan
Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Ridley
Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Taylor (Chair)

Non-Voting Opposition Representatives present:-
Councillor Benefield
Councillor Duggins
Councillor McNicholas (Substitute for Councillor Mutton)
Councillor Nellist

Employees Present:-
J. Bolton (Director of Community Services)
A. Carr (Community Services Directorate)
F. Collingham (Chief Executive's Directorate)
M. Dickens (City Services Directorate)
T. Errington (City Development Directorate)
C. Green (Director of Children, Learning and Young People)
B. Hastie (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)
L. Knight (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
S. Manzie (Chief Executive)
G. Marshall (City Services Directorate)
J. Parry (Chief Executive's Directorate)
K. Rice (Head of Legal Services)
C. Seager (City Services Directorate)
A. Vaughan (City Services Directorate)
A. Walster (City Services Directorate)
M. Yardley (City Development Directorate)

Apologies:-
Councillor Mrs Johnson
Councillor Mutton
C. West (Director of Finance and Legal Services)

RECOMMENDATION

113. Response to Consultation – "Recycle on the Go"

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of City Services, which sought approval for the Authority's response to the consultation document "Recycle on the Go". The Cabinet noted that Scrutiny Board 3 had considered the proposed response at their meeting held on 10th October 2007, and the report now submitted incorporated the comments made by the Scrutiny Board members.

The Cabinet noted that the Council had been invited to give its views on the consultation paper "Recycle on the Go", which sets out a voluntary code of practice and good practice guide on the provision of public use recycle bins. The proposals are voluntary and principally concern how litter is collected for disposal or recycling in places that the public can use.

The Government would like to see an extension of recycling from the home to places where the public have access with the desired outcome being to promote positive behaviour and citizen participation in reaching the ultimate goal articulated in the Waste Strategy for England 2007 of One Planet Living. The intention of the voluntary code of practice and the good practice guide is to provide advice on harmonising public place recycling schemes where appropriate and to allow organisations to enjoy the benefits of recycling in a way that is joined up, consistent and that the public is likely to recognise and therefore take part in.

The Government does not have any plans to legislate whilst voluntary measures are given the chance to bed in. The development of the voluntary code of practice and good practice guide is viewed as the mechanism to help voluntary measures establish themselves.

The Cabinet noted that the consultation document was lengthy, consisting of 58 questions, a large percentage of which were of a technical nature. Employees had prepared proposed responses to the technical questions, which were detailed at Appendix 1 to the report submitted. The strategic questions requiring an elected member decision were detailed within Section 4 of the report submitted, and included comments from Scrutiny Board 3's consideration of this matter.

The consultation document set out the drivers and challenges in the context of the National Waste Strategy 2007, details of which were summarised within the report submitted.

The report indicated that the financial basis of the consultation document was based upon promoting litter recycling to minimise landfill, given the planned increase in landfill tax (currently £24 per tonne) to £48 by 2010/11. Coventry's position is different to that of many other authorities because it operates an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant and these financial benefits will not apply. Litter from the City's bins is less than 1% of its total household waste and the majority of this waste is already treated through the EfW process.

The Council is currently preparing a Draft Waste Strategy for consultation. This Strategy will give consideration to future recycling targets set by the Government through Local Area Agreements and any subsequent expansion to recycling, such as the placement of public use recycling litter bins.

RESOLVED that the City Council be recommended to approve the response to the "Recycle on the Go" consultation document attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted, which incorporated the comments from Scrutiny Board 3 at their meeting on 10th October 2007.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

25 October 2007

Members Present:	Councillor Arrowsmith Councillor Bains Councillor Kelsey Councillor McNicholas Councillor Mulhall Councillor Ms Reece (Deputy Chair) Councillor Windsor
Other Members Present:	Councillor Ahmed Councillor Benefield Councillor Foster Councillor Harrison
Employees Present:	T. Errington (City Development Directorate) C. Forde (Finance and Legal Services Directorate) N. McChesney (City Development Directorate) C. Sinclair (Customer and Workforce Service Directorate) R. Sykes (City Development Directorate)
Apologies	Councillor Adalat Councillor Charley Councillor Cliffe Councillor Lakha Councillor Maton

RECOMMENDATION

146. Coventry Development Plan 2001: Saved Policies

The Committee considered a report to the Director of City Development which detailed the outcome of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's consideration of which policies in the Coventry Development Plan should be retained as planning policy.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which introduced the new planning system of Local Development Frameworks, provided interim arrangements whereby Local Planning Authorities could "save" the policies of their existing development plans for a 3-year period commencing on 28 September 2004. This concept related to the need for continuity during the change from the old to the new planning system. The Act also gave the Secretary of State power to make a direction to "save" policies beyond this 3-year period. Progress on new-style plans had not been as quick as envisaged when the Act was passed and it became clear that the introduction of new planning policies across the country was small.

As a result, action was needed to ensure that relevant policies remained in force in order to ensure that planning decisions were lawful.

Therefore, last year, the Government issued a protocol on the "saving" of development plan policies. If Local Planning Authorities wanted to retain policies beyond the expiry of the 3-year period after 27 September 2007, they needed to seek the Secretary of State's agreement to do so. The timescale and guidance for this exercise was such that it was not possible to build in effective engagement with the community and this had led to some misunderstandings.

On 20 March 2007, the City Council approved lists of policies it wished to see deleted or retained in the Coventry Development Plan. As requested, these were submitted to the Government Office for the West Midlands for an assessment and for the Secretary of State to make the final decision. Councils were advised that the Secretary of State could: (a) agree with their recommendations; (b) decide to save a policy even where deletion had been recommended; or (c) decide that a policy would not be saved despite the recommendation.

The Secretary of State issued a Direction in September 2007, under covering letter, which included a Schedule of the saved policies. These documents were listed within the appendix to the report. The decision generally followed the City Council's recommendations. However, the following four additional policies were also identified for deletion:

H 7 - Housing Land Provision - contrary to PPS 3 (Housing) due to its significant reliance on windfall housing sites, compared to allocations.

H 14 - Gypsies and Travellers – having been overtaken by Circular 01/2006 (Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites) which says that local authorities must allocate sufficient sites for gypsies and travellers in development plan documents.

GE 13 - Species Protection – since paragraph 15 of PPS 9 (Biodiversity and Geological Conservation) states that specific policies should not be included in development plans because of the statutory protection received by many species.

EM 1 - Alternative Energy Resources – having been overtaken by more detailed policies in PPS 22 (Renewable Energy).

The Secretary's of State's covering letter noted that the extension of saved policies did not indicate that she would endorse those policies if presented as new policy. Local planning authorities "should not suppose that a regulatory local plan style approach would be supported" in the new system and should "not seek to reintroduce the numerous policies of many local plans". Local planning authorities "should adopt a positive spatial strategy led approach" to plan preparation.

It was clearly not possible to re-publish the Coventry Development Plan. Instead, your officers will provide information about the saved policies as follows:

- to all Council Directorates;
- through the Council's website;
- to parish councils;
- to libraries; and
- to all listed on the Local Development Framework database.

The Committee noted that the deletion of policies would affect the Proposals Map. However, the Government Office had advised that re-printing the Proposals Map was unnecessary, providing that it was read in conjunction with the Schedule of saved policies.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Planning Committee note the revisions to the Coventry Development Plan contained in the report.**
- (b) That Council be recommended to note the Secretary of State's Direction.**