

DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

23 February 2010
9.30am to 10.15am

Present: Councillors Reid (Chair), Ward (Vice-Chair), Baker, Blair and Blencowe

Also present: Dave Roberts (Head of Policy and Projects)
Joanna Gilbert-Wooldridge (Senior Planning Officer)
Guy Belcher (Nature Conservation Projects Officer)

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2010 were approved.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Dryden.

3 Declarations of Interest

4 Public Questions (See below)

None

5 Cambridgeshire's Green Infrastructure Strategy: Review and 2nd edition

Joanna Gilbert-Wooldridge introduced the report and asked members for comments for the consultation response.

Cllr Baker asked for clarification on the term 'Deprivation in Cambridge – Individual Indices of Deprivation 2007', and which areas this refers to. This was thought to be areas of Barnwell, King's Hedges and East Chesterton although the document was agreed to be lacking in detail.

Members felt that much of the information in the report was misleading and that it was lacking in clear action points. The document was thought to be long and difficult to read. Its audience was unclear and it contained too many generalities. Feedback from the public supports this view.

The policy status of this document was unclear and it lacks clear links to other policies and strategies. The Chair has requested a clear protocol from Cambridgeshire Horizons before any future reports are commissioned. The previous document was concise, useful and had a degree of specificity. It has been used as a material consideration for planning. However, members were doubtful about the new document fulfilling this role.

Cllr Reid expressed the view that she could not endorse the Governance proposals on page 122 of the document.

Members questioned the following aspect of the document:

- Who is the intended recipient of the document?
- Writing policy is outside the remit of Cambridgeshire Horizons.
- Regeneration is outside the remit of Cambridgeshire horizons.
- Does not fit with other policy documents.
- Unnecessarily long.
- Contained good technical information but this is not needed in this context.
- Poor usability
- Does not recognise growth areas.
- Will not deliver good green spaces in the City.
- Not clear actions or outcomes.
- Who wrote the consultant's brief and why was there no opportunity to comment on this before the work was commissioned?

Discussions followed on how the activities and budget of Cambridgeshire Horizons were scrutinised. Members were concerned at the paucity of monitoring regarding value for money.

The following improvements to the document were suggested:

- Re-arrange the information into regional chapters (City and South Cambs could be together).
- Editing of interesting but unnecessary information.
- A review of the previous document to see what has been achieved and what needs to be taken forward.
- The inclusion of clear targets and actions.

Members were unhappy about the proposed role out of the document and requested that it come back to DPSG for further consideration before it goes to a second public consultation round.

The meeting ended at 10.15am

CHAIR