

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE - 7 DECEMBER 2010

SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2010

(To be read in conjunction with the Agenda for the Meeting)

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| * Cllr Robert Knowles (Chairman) | * Cllr Stephen O'Grady   |
| * Cllr Mike Band (Vice-Chairman) | * Cllr Stefan Reynolds   |
| * Cllr Mrs Carole King           | * Cllr Roger Steel       |
| Cllr Bryn Morgan                 | * Cllr Adam Taylor-Smith |
| * Cllr David Munro               | * Cllr Keith Webster     |

\* Present

Cllrs Mrs Mary Foryszewski and Ken Reed were also in attendance and spoke on Agenda Item 9 (Minute No. 127 relates)

123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Bryn Morgan.

124. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no interests raised under this heading.

**Part I - Recommendations to the Council**

125. APPROPRIATION OF LANDS FOR GODALMING LEISURE CENTRE AND KING GEORGE'S FIELD (Agenda Item 4; Appendix A)

125.1 On 5 October 2010 the Executive recommended to Council the selection of a preferred contractor for the design and build of the new Godalming Leisure Centre and the release of £100,000 to the preferred contractor to submit a planning application, subject to the Council obtaining legal advice on site related issues to the satisfaction of the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Leisure.

125.2 Advice of Leading Counsel has been obtained in relation to the legal effect and significance of the Declaration made by the Godalming Borough Council on 1 December 1938 ('the Declaration') under which it was intended that the local community in Godalming should continue to benefit from the provision of a King George's Field. The Council presently holds the Field for open space and recreational purposes. In order, therefore, to proceed with its proposals, the Council must first appropriate to planning, development and leisure purposes that part of the Field, which is needed for the development of the new leisure centre.

125.3 In negotiation, the Council has stated its willingness to 'dedicate' as a King George's Field an existing playing field which lies adjacent to but not within the area of the Godalming Field at Broadwater Park. If it proceeds with its proposed use of part of the Field for the development of the new leisure centre, the legal advice is that the Council should do a second appropriation

of the existing playing field, within its freehold ownership, for use as recreational open space and playing fields. This land will be offered as exchange land for the land to be appropriated for use as the new leisure centre.

- 125.4 Section 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to appropriate, for any purpose for which it is authorised by any enactment to acquire land by agreement, any land which belongs to the Council and is no longer required for the purpose for which it is held immediately before the appropriation.
- 125.5 In the case of land consisting of or forming part of open space, subsection 122(2A) of the 1972 Act provides that the Council may not appropriate under subsection (1) unless before appropriating the land, (i) it places notice of its intention to do so, specifying the land in question, to be advertised in two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the land is situated; and (ii) it then considers any objections to the proposed appropriation which may be made to it.
- 125.6 The Council intends to exercise its powers of appropriation under section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the 1972 Act') for the above purposes. Given that it holds the Field as open space, the Council must advertise its intention to do so and consider any objections to its proposed appropriation, in accordance with section 122(2A) of the 1972 Act. For that purpose, Notices have been placed in the Surrey Advertiser on 5 November and 12 November 2010. The notices together with the accompanying plans were placed on deposit at the Council offices for public inspection.
- 125.7 In recognition of the role of the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) as Trustee of the King George V Foundation, the NPFA were invited to respond in writing with any representations on the proposals, on or before Friday 26 November 2010.
- 125.8 In accordance with the requirements of Section 122 and the Public Notice to send any objections during the objection period stated in the Notice to the Chief Executive, no formal objections have been received to either proposed appropriation.
- 125.9 Although not sent to the Council as a formal objection to the proposed appropriation of the land from open space purposes to planning, development and leisure purposes for the proposed leisure centre, a letter was received from Mr E Adams, summarised as follows:-

The letter addressed to Councillors was received during the objection period. This is objecting to the development of the new leisure centre on the open space land. Mr Adams's other main concern is that he believes the siting of the new leisure centre would exacerbate traffic/car-parking problems he identifies in the surrounding highway network. This highway/traffic objection by Mr Adams is more properly a representation to be considered and addressed at the planning application stage. However, general observations on Mr Adams'

concerns about the new leisure centre on the open space land can be addressed at this meeting.

- 125.10 A letter from the Godalming Swimming Club strongly supports the building of the new leisure centre on the site adjacent to the tennis courts as this would enable the pool facilities to be available for the Club and other users during construction of the new centre. The Club has an established membership of 256 with a wide age range and is particularly keen that swimming as a skill is promoted throughout all age ranges, but particularly for young children. The Club points out that the pool is available for schools and other organisations like scouts, cubs, brownies and guides, who also use it for swimming galas. Additionally adults and senior citizens use the pool, including the disabled and those recovering from injury. The facility is a very important part of the local community.
- 125.11 The letter from the Chief Executive of the Fields in Trust was dated and received by the Council on 6 December 2010, advising that the Trustees had decided to approve the release of the 'covenants' on the existing King George's Fields, subject to the matters set out in the letter and summarised below:
1. That planning permission be granted for the proposed new leisure centre;
  2. That the replacement area of land be dedicated on the same terms as the existing King George's Field; and
  3. That the Council should pay the costs of Fields in Trust (not to exceed £4000).
- 125.12 The letter also stated that Fields in Trust had no objection to the proposed appropriation of the two areas of land except that the Trustees only accepted the appropriation of the existing King George's Field on the basis that it be appropriated 'to planning, development and leisure purposes in the form of a new Godalming Leisure Centre'
- 125.13 Whether the land in question is no longer required for the purpose for which it is held is a matter for the Council to determine, subject to ordinary principles of acting reasonably in the interests of its inhabitants. Those principles require the Council to make its judgment on that question in the light of all material considerations, including in the present case the Declaration by its predecessor.
- 125.14 In the case of open space to which the special procedure under Section 122(2A) and (2B) of the 1972 Act applies, the Council is under a duty to consider both, (i) the question whether the land is no longer required for open space; and (ii) whether it should be appropriated to the proposed purposes, in the light of the objections and representations received following public consultation.
- 125.15 The process for finding an appropriate site for the new leisure centre for Godalming has been exhaustive and detailed. A working group with representation from local Waverley Councillors, Godalming Town Councillors, Chairman and Secretary from Sport Godalming, Broadwater School, swimming clubs and users of the current facility, first met in April 2009. The

group was split into three specialist sub groups, one such being the Site Working Group. They considered many possible sites, following planning direction this was reduced to eleven reasonably potential sites. After further scrutiny the Site Group reduced the potential site list to four. At this point an external consultancy was instructed to carry out a SWOT analysis to evaluate each of the four proposed sites. This piece of work narrowed the field to two possible sites for the new leisure centre, the grass tennis court site and the existing site. It was agreed by the Working Group and the Council that Waverley should go out to tender for both site options, allowing another layer of scrutiny to highlight the site that offered the best financial and the most effective community benefits for the users and residents, and the tenders were despatched in January 2010. In February 2010, the Council agreed the two evaluation criteria matrices that would be applied to the returned tenders to identify the most effective building design and the most appropriate site location.

125.16 Throughout this process negotiations have continued with Fields in Trust and sports clubs affected by this project. Agreement and support has been forthcoming from all sports clubs in the area and discussions with Field in Trust had come to a conclusion in April 2010, agreeing the land swap proposed by Waverley. In parallel to these discussions the Chairman of Friends of Broadwater Park was met and updated regularly of proceedings.

125.17 In October 2010, after detailed evaluation, following the agreed criteria, the grass tennis court site was selected as the preferred location for the new leisure centre. It caused the least disruption to the thousands of users of the current centre, and had agreement from the local sports clubs. This decision also enabled an increase in the area set aside for informal recreational use of park, as the existing site will be returned to grass, linking with the last remaining informal recreation area, practically doubling this space.

125.18 The land that has been selected for the new location of the Leisure Centre is also no longer required for open space. Following the findings of our Playing Pitch Strategy adopted by the Council in 2003, produced by PMP Consultancy, consultation demonstrated:

‘that the overall tennis facilities at Broadwater Park are not used regularly and are therefore of little benefit to local residents. The majority of respondents would prefer the courts (grass) to be converted, in most cases, to multi-use games areas.’

125.19 Following this recommendation a multi-use games area was introduced in 2009. This is well used and occupies 25% of the proposed area for appropriation and as part of the proposed building of the new leisure centre will be relocated elsewhere on Broadwater Park. The three remaining grass tennis courts occupy 75% of the land and have proven to be uneconomic and not represent value for money for either Waverley Borough Council or the adjacent tennis club to maintain. This area, 75% of the land, remains redundant and has been since April 2009 and is therefore not available as open space for the local area.

125.20 As part of the land appropriation Waverley is offering a significantly larger area of land, 1.621 ha to be included under the King George V covenant in exchange for the area the Council now requires to build the new leisure centre, 0.43ha. The areas of land involved are shown on the attached plans (Annexes 1 and 2).

125.21 The Executive considered the representations and responses received by the Council following the placement of notices in the Surrey Advertiser, including the matters raised on behalf of the Trustees of the Fields in Trust, in respect of the proposed appropriation of lands (under section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972). Having regard to the proposal to provide an alternative playing field site in exchange for the existing King George's Field site, the Executive acknowledges that the proposed development of the proposed new Godalming Leisure Centre shall be subject to planning permission and now

**RECOMMENDS that**

- 34. the proposed new Leisure Centre Site on the land known as King George's Field, shown on the Plan at Annexe 1, is no longer required for its existing open space and recreational purposes as a playing field and that it be appropriated for planning, development and leisure purposes in the form of a new Godalming Leisure Centre;**
- 35. the land proposed to be exchanged for present King George's Field, shown on the Plan at Annexe 2 (the Exchange Land), is no longer required solely for open space purposes and that it be appropriated to open space and recreational purposes to be held for and used as a playing field on terms which shall be, as far as possible, the same terms as the existing King George's Field; and**
- 36. the Council reimburse the necessary costs of Fields in Trust in connection with their assistance in respect of this matter, such costs not to exceed the sum of £4000, subject to the Deputy Chief Executive being satisfied with the details of relevant costs incurred and claimed.**

Background Papers

Correspondence received from E Adams, Godalming Swimming Club and Fields in Trust.

126. WAVERLEY'S REDUNDANCY PAYMENT POLICY (Agenda Item 8; Appendix E)

126.1 This item proposes that Waverley changes its current severance payment scheme in the context of changes taking place in other parts of the public sector and the unprecedented economic situation. The Council has recently completed the streamlining of the senior management team and was able to limit the number of staff facing possible redundancy, and/or early retirement, to a minimum. These changes have placed the Council in a stronger financial

position and should mean that the Council will avoid having to instigate redundancies this financial year and in the foreseeable future. As part of the Executive's review of all Terms and Conditions, the new policy is proposed to bring it into line with changing practice and market conditions. Therefore this report recommends an appropriate reduction in the current severance payment scheme based on a reduction from 3 times actual weeks' pay (up to a maximum cap of 66 weeks) to 1.5 times actual weeks' pay with no maximum cap.

126.2 When the Council last reviewed its policy in 2007, along with most local authorities, it adopted a severance payment scheme that provides staff who are made redundant with compensation calculated by reference to three variables:

- length of service;
- actual weekly pay based on basic salary;
- whether or not they will be eligible for immediate payment of pension benefits.

126.3 Currently staff receive a redundancy payment equivalent to three weeks' pay for each year of local government service (up to a maximum of 66 weeks). In exceptional cases local government redundancy legislation allows a payment of up to 104 weeks. Staff over 55 who are made redundant receive a pension straight away (it should be noted that prior to the recent statutory change in the early retirement provisions, staff would have been able to retire aged 50 years, up to April 2010). Given that this results in extra immediate costs to the Council, these costs are deducted from the redundancy payment on the proviso that their final redundancy entitlement does not fall below the statutory minimum calculation. This lower redundancy payment recognises the benefit to the employee of receiving their pension immediately, before normal retirement age.

126.4 These minimum guaranteed redundancy payments are calculated on weekly pay and length of service, but offer limited compensation in comparison to the contractual redundancy schemes offered by larger employers, both in the public and private sector. Individual compensation payments are calculated as follows:

- 0.5 week's pay for each full year of service under the age of 22
- 1 week's pay for each full year of service between 22 or above, but under 41
- 1.5 week's pay for each full year of service aged 41 or above

but a week's pay is capped at £380 per week (equivalent to an annual salary of £19,769) and any service over twenty years is discounted in the calculation.

126.5 The Council has been successful in managing down the number of actual redundancies, through careful vacancy management and other recruitment controls, natural wastage, redeployment etc. Over the past three years Waverley has saved a total of £3.5 million and reduced its FTE staff numbers

from 426 to 380. Whilst the Council will always endeavour to avoid compulsory redundancies, it is not possible to predict whether external factors will make some compulsory redundancies unavoidable over the medium term. Where they are necessary, the Council's aim should be to make sure that the costs of such redundancies are wholly appropriate and strike a reasonable balance between employee and council taxpayer.

126.6 The following table uses a "typical" employee of a 40-year-old member of staff, with nine years' service paid £31,000 (£595 per week) to demonstrate comparable costs of the statutory scheme, the current scheme with a weighting of 3 times the actual years and the proposal to change the multiplier to 1.5 times the actual years for redundancy payments. The "typical" employee calculation has been made by analysing both the age profiles and salaries of all employees and arriving at an average.

**Table 1 – Calculating the number of weeks pay for a typical employee aged 40 years with nine years' service**

Multiplier	Redundancy Payment £
Statutory minimum (9 weeks x £380)	3,420
Current scheme (3 x 9 actual weeks) x (actual weekly salary £595)	16,065
Proposed scheme (1.5 x 9 actual weeks) x (actual weekly salary £595)	8,033

126.7 In considering redundancy payments the Council must always be mindful of the financial case to justify any proposal. To this end the Council has used Audit Commission guidance, which suggests that redundancy costs should result in a payback within 3 years. However, in practice, the Council has usually secured a payback around one year, thereby securing financial benefits to the council taxpayer that much sooner.

126.8 Whilst there is a maximum payment of 104 weeks under local government redundancy regulations and a range of caps used, down to the statutory scheme of 30 weeks, the Council has operated a cap of 66 weeks since 2007. With the reduction in the multiplier to 1.5 week for every year of service, councillors at the recent meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC), felt that as the cap would so seldom apply they were minded to remove the cap, i.e. an employee would have to work at least 44 years within local government before the cap would be triggered. Following detailed discussions with the recognised trade union at the JNC meeting on 4 November 2010, it was decided that the maximum cap would be removed.

126.9 The Council has applied a multiplier of 1 week for every year of service to cases of voluntary redundancy with the proviso that this was not less than the statutory minimum and this report recommends the retention of this. However, in the event that the Council in the future needs to issue an

invitation to staff to apply for voluntary redundancy, Councillors on the JNC proposed to seek prior Council approval as an exception to policy in these circumstances, to amend the voluntary redundancy payment rate from 1 week per year of service to 1.5 weeks per year. It should be emphasised that it is not anticipated that any redundancies will take place this financial year or in the foreseeable future. However, where it is necessary to make redundancies, the Council may wish to increase the voluntary redundancy payment rate in this way, to create a sufficient incentive for some staff to volunteer, thereby avoiding compulsory redundancy(ies).

126.10 With regard to retirements in the interest of the efficiency of the service, the current scheme requires cases to be considered on their own merits, with the expectation that any payment should not exceed that which would be payable in redundancy cases. There is no proposal to amend this policy.

126.11 Staffside was informally consulted at a series of meetings during the recent streamlining restructuring process and is aware that the Council is reviewing its redundancy policy. It has been emphasised that there are no redundancy plans and redundancies will continue to be a last resort and that Waverley is committed to finding redeployment for those affected and will reduce costs, wherever possible, through alternative measures such as increasing efficiency and value for money.

126.12 The revised redundancy report was discussed at two recent JNC meetings where Staffside produced a formal response outlining staff opposition to the initial proposal of reducing the redundancy policy to 1 weeks pay for every year of service and the introduction of a 40 week cap. Following discussions at the most recent JNC meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010, the following changes were proposed to be included in this report:-

- 1) to increase the redundancy payments under the policy from 1 week per year of service to 1.5 weeks per year\*;
- 2) to remove any upper limit to the number of weeks' pay they would give in the event of redundancy (previously they had proposed a cap of 40 weeks);
- 3) in the event that the Council in the future needs to issue an invitation to staff to apply for voluntary redundancy (which there are no plans to actually do), as an exception to policy in these circumstances, to seek prior Council approval to amend the voluntary redundancy payment rate from 1 week per year of service to 1.5 weeks per year.

\*NB – It should be noted that Surrey County Council reduced its redundancy payment scheme from 3 weeks' actual pay to 1.5 weeks' actual pay with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

126.13 Having completed formal consultation with Staffside, starting from 23 September 2010 and ending on 4 November 2010, the Council has completed the one month's formal consultation required under the Regulations. If the Council agree to the recommendations, the revised severance payment scheme will be introduced with effect from 1st January 2011. The Executive



**RECOMMENDS that**

- 37. the revised redundancy payment scheme be adopted, as follows:**
- (a) Reducing from the current 3 weeks' actual salary for every year of local government service for employees who are not entitled to early payment of pension benefits up to a maximum of 66 weeks' salary to a revised scheme based on 1.5 times actual salary for every year of local government service for employees who are not entitled to early payment of pension benefits, with no maximum cap.**
  - (b) For those entitled to immediate receipt of pension benefits, the redundancy payment in (a) above be reduced by the cost of any 'pension strain', on the proviso that the net payment does not fall below redundancy calculation payable in accordance with the statutory scheme.**
  - (c) That the policy for voluntary redundancy be maintained at 1 weeks' actual salary for every year of local government service with no maximum, however, in the event that the Council in the future needs to issue an invitation to staff to apply for voluntary redundancy (which there are no plans to actually do), as an exception to policy in these circumstances, to seek prior Council approval to amend the voluntary redundancy payment rate from 1 week per year of service to 1.5 weeks per year, and**
  - (d) That retirements in the interest of efficiency of the service be considered on their own merits, with the expectation that any payment should not exceed that which would be payable in redundancy cases.**

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

**127. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY - PREFERRED OPTIONS AND DRAFT POLICIES (Agenda Item 9; Appendix F)**

**127.1** The Council has reached another key milestone in the development of the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy, with the production of what is effectively a first draft of the Core Strategy. It sets out the preferred approach to dealing with key issues previously identified and also contains the draft policies. Subject to approval from the Council, the next stage will be to consult on the document, starting in January 2011.

**127.2** Members are reminded that the Core Strategy sets out the key policies and overall strategy for managing and directing future development in Waverley. The Core Strategy is required to look forward at least 15 years from adoption. Therefore, the end date for this Core Strategy is 2027. The Core Strategy should be aligned with the Sustainable Community Strategy for the area.

- 127.3 Before the Core Strategy can be adopted, it must go through the process of independent Examination where the Inspector will assess whether it is 'sound'. There are various tests of soundness set out in relevant guidance. In order to be 'sound' a Core Strategy must be:-
- Justified;
  - Effective; and
  - Consistent with National Policy
- 127.4 Being 'justified' means that it must be founded on a robust and credible evidence base; and should also be the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. Sustainability Appraisal must be embedded throughout the process of producing a Core Strategy. It plays a particularly important role in the process of evaluating alternatives and identifying the preferred strategy/policy. To be 'effective' a Core Strategy must be deliverable; flexible; and able to be monitored. The Core Strategy must accord with national policy set out in PPSs etc. There is also a requirement that it should be in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the area. This issue is dealt with later in the section on the link between the Core Strategy and the South East Plan.
- 127.5 The Core Strategy also provides the policy framework for more detailed work, including the identification of specific sites and the more detailed planning policies for the day-to-day management of development. The intention is that these will be addressed through the proposed Site Allocations and Development Management DPD.
- 127.6 Following the introduction of the LDF system, Waverley was one of the first local authorities to submit a Core Strategy for Examination. Unfortunately, not long after this, the first two submitted Core Strategies in the country were found to be unsound following examination. This and other factors led to the Government Office indicating that it was possible that the Waverley Core Strategy would also be found unsound. As a result, the Council took the decision to seek a direction from the Secretary of State to formally withdraw the Core Strategy, without going through the full time and cost of Examination.
- 127.7 Following the withdrawal of the first Core Strategy in 2007, work on the new Core Strategy went back to basics in terms of evidence gathering, identifying key issues etc. Therefore, as part of the evidence to support the new Core Strategy, a number of key evidence studies have been completed. These include the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and the Employment Land Review (ELR). A full list of evidence studies completed or still being worked on is on the web site.
- 127.8 There has also been extensive consultation, including the wide-ranging consultations on key documents as well as very targeted consultation, such as the on-going dialogue with infrastructure providers. Some of the key stages in the production of the Core Strategy to date include:-
- October 2008: Executive endorsed the draft Spatial Portrait, Core Strategy Issues, the draft Vision and Draft Core Strategy Objectives.

- January 2009: Executive agreed the Core Strategy Issues and Options Topic Papers for consultation. (Consultation on these and the draft vision etc. took place February-March 2009).
- December 2009: Executive agreed the further Housing Options for consultation. (Consultation took place between January and March 2010).
- September - October 2010: Consultation on options for setting a local housing target.

127.9 Summaries of the responses received to the 2009 Topic Paper consultation; the 2010 Housing Options consultation and the 2010 Housing Target consultation are available for Members to view on the web site. As explained above, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a key part of the preparation of LDF documents. The full SA report will be finalised prior to formal publication of the Core Strategy. At this stage an interim SA report is being finalised, which will include the SA assessment of the Issues and Options Topic Papers, the Housing Options consulted on earlier in the year; the options for setting a local housing target and the draft Core Strategy policies themselves.

127.10 During most of the preparation period of the Core Strategy one of the key influences has been the South East Plan, which was published in May 2009. It was necessary to ensure that the emerging Core Strategy would be in general conformity with the South East Plan. A particularly important factor was the housing target. The South East Plan included a requirement that Waverley should provide for at least 5,000 additional homes in the period 2006-2026. Earlier consultations relating to options for housing were based on the assumption that this amount of housing would have to be delivered. Following its election in May, the Coalition Government announced its intention to abolish regional plans (including the South East Plan) and the associated targets. Following this, in July, the Secretary of State revoked the regional plans. Guidance was issued to local authorities on the practical implications of this move. In relation to housing targets, the Government said that local authorities would now be responsible for deciding how many new homes to plan for. However, it also made it clear that local authorities would have to justify their housing targets and defend them at Examination. It also said that the setting of local housing targets should be in accordance with Government Policy on housing set out in PPS3.

127.11 As a result of this, the Council moved quickly to undertake a consultation on options for setting a local housing target.

127.12 The decision by the Secretary of State to revoke the regional plans was challenged in the High Court and on 10 November, the Court found that the Secretary of State had acted unlawfully. The effect of this judgement is that the regional plans, including the South East Plan have been reinstated. The Government has responded to this saying that it still intends to abolish the regional plans in the Localism Bill, which is due to be published later this month. It is estimated that the Bill will be enacted sometime in 2011. In the meantime, the Secretary of State expects both local authorities and the Planning Inspectorate to have regard to the intention to abolish the regional plans as a material consideration in planning decisions.

127.13 Where does this leave the Waverley Core Strategy? The work carried out since July has been on the basis that the regional tier of planning is gone and that the Council is now responsible for setting local targets, including the local housing target. As it now stands, the South East Plan has been reinstated. However, the Government regards this as being temporary, given its stated intention to abolish regional plans through the Localism Bill. Having regard to this, the Core Strategy is still being prepared on the basis that there is no regional plan. The way in which other Councils and the Planning Inspectorate deal with this matter should become clearer in the coming months. In addition, the current timetable is such that the Core Strategy is not due to be published until July 2011, with submission in October 2011. Therefore, it is anticipated that the Localism Bill will have been enacted and the regional plans abolished before the Core Strategy has completed its passage through Examination.

127.14 The Core Strategy has now reached the stage where the preferred options for dealing with issues have been identified and the Core Strategy policies have been drafted. Subject to Council approval, it is now proposed that the Preferred Options and Policies be the subject of consultation. The intention is that this consultation will start in January. The Preferred Options document pulls together the various strands of work including:

- What has come through the evidence studies;
- The feedback from the various earlier consultations; and
- The on-going Sustainability Appraisal work

The key components of the Preferred Options document include:

- The updated Spatial Portrait, Issues and Challenges, Core Strategy Vision and Objectives
- The overall Spatial Strategy (i.e. where development should go). In essence, this says that new development should mainly be directed to the main settlements, with limited development in the villages, with the exception of small-scale schemes for affordable housing to meet local needs;
- The local housing target. Having regard to the outcome from the recent consultation this target is based mainly on an assessment of capacity within settlements, without the need to release greenfield land in the countryside;
- An explanation of broadly how and where this new housing should go;
- Policies aimed at increasing the delivery of affordable housing through a lowering of the thresholds and an increase in the percentage of affordable housing required;
- High level policies on other matters such as employment, town centres/retailing, leisure and recreation
- Environmental policies for the countryside and the built up areas;
- Policies to protect and enhance biodiversity, including a specific policy for the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.
- Various policies dealing with mitigating climate change and adapting to the effects of climate change.

127.15 Copies of the Core Strategy Preferred Options and Draft Policies document have already been circulated to members of the Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive. The papers are available in the Members' Room, on the website, and on request from Democratic Services. As explained above, the summaries of the outcome from the previous consultations are available for members to view on the web site. The observations made at the Special Meeting of ELOS held on 26 November 2010 are attached as Annexe 3.

127.16 In addition, it is proposed that the following additional documents will be available to coincide with the consultation itself:

- The update to the SHLAA
- An Interim Statement on Infrastructure
- An evidence statement relating to Climate Change issues.

127.17 Following the consultation, the document will be reviewed and amended and then reported back to the Executive and Council with a view to agreeing the final version ready for formal publication. Prior to publication, the final SA report will be completed and it will be necessary to ensure that all the relevant evidence is also complete and ready for submission. It will also be necessary to undertake a formal assessment of the Core Strategy under the terms of the Habitats Regulations. It is currently anticipated that the Core Strategy will be published in July 2011. Publication then triggers the formal consultation on the 'soundness' of the document, with the anticipated date for submission being October 2011.

127.18 The Executive

**RECOMMENDS that**

- 38. the Core Strategy Preferred Options and Draft Policies be agreed as the basis for public consultation; and**
- 39. the Head of Planning Services be authorised, in consultation with the Planning Portfolio Holder, to approve the detailed arrangements for the consultation, including the consultation material.**

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

**Part II – Matters Reported in Detail for the Information of the Council**

There were no matters falling within this category.

**Part III – Brief Summaries of Other Matters Dealt With**

128. RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR GODALMING LEISURE CENTRE (Agenda Item 5; Appendix B)

RESOLVED that

1. Option 4 consisting of Biomass and PV Panels be confirmed as the preferred installation option to be included in the new Godalming Leisure Centre;
2. authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive to confirm capital costs for the preferred installation with the chosen contractor and ongoing maintenance costs with DC Leisure Management, to the satisfaction of the Portfolio Holders for Leisure and Finance;
3. the Council retains the income from the Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) for the lifetime of the scheme, as Waverley is providing the capital investment for the renewable options; and
4. by approving the recommended option, the scheme will support the Council's leisure and carbon management commitments and represents an invest to save opportunity.

129. IN-DEPTH REPORT - REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE '20s PLENTY' 20 MPH LIMITS ACROSS WAVERLEY'S RESIDENTIAL ROADS (Agenda Item 6; Appendix C)

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee be accepted that the Council does not pursue any further work or its own resources into implementing the '20's Plenty' scheme across the Borough.

130. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT - QUARTER 2 (JULY - SEPTEMBER) 2010/11 (Agenda Item 7; Appendix D)

RESOLVED that the observations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the performance figures for Quarter 2 be noted and approval be given to the indicators set out in paragraph 5 of the report being removed from future performance reports.

131. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT (AMR) 2009/10 (Agenda Item 10; Appendix G)

RESOLVED that the Annual Monitoring Report for 2009/10 be noted and it be agreed that the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, be authorised to add the relevant data on housing supply prior to the submission of the AMR in December 2010.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and concluded at 7.56 p.m.

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Chairman