
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**MINUTES****THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Monday, 15 July 2024 from 7.30 - 8.00 pm

Present: Councillors Sarah Nelmes (Chair)

Jon Tankard, Chris Lloyd, Andrew Scarth, Philip Hearn, Oliver Cooper, Andrea Fraser, Stephen Cox, David Major, Chris Mitchell and Chris Whately-Smith

Officers in Attendance:

Kimberley Grout
Alison Scott
Joanne Wagstaffe
Stephen Rix
Marko Kalik
Aaron Roberts
Sharon Keenlyside

PR124 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Louise Price, Steve Drury and Jonathon Solomons with the substitutes being Councillors Chris Whately-Smith and David Major.

PR224 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2024 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

PR6/24 – ‘Councillor Oliver Cooper proposed an amendment’ in place of ‘Councillor Oliver Cooper tabled an amendment’

and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

PR324 NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

PR424 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fraser declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4, Batchwood Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation, as Chair of Batchwood Community Council.

PR624 TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PLACEMENT POLICY - UPDATE

Kimberley Grout, Associate Director Corporate, Customer and Community, presented the report and informed Members that the report set out an update to the Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy. The Policy had been reviewed as it had been 3 years since the last one took place. There had been several minor amendments.

It was suggested by Councillor Scarth that any amendments were highlighted in bold or coloured script to make them obvious.

In response to Members questions, the Associate Director Corporate, Customer and Community informed Members that there were currently 70 households in temporary accommodation. The vast majority of those had been placed within the Three Rivers district but 9 households were out of district hence the need for this policy. Households were placed in accommodation on a case-by-case basis and would be placed out of district if there was a need due to domestic abuse and other reasons.

The Chair proposed to move the Officer's recommendation and this was seconded by Councillor Scarth.

RESOLVED: that the Policy and Resources Committee AGREED to approve the updated Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy.

PR724 BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REGULATION 16 CONSULTATION

Marko Kalik, Head of Planning Policy and Conservation, presented the report and explained that Batchworth Community Council had prepared a Neighbourhood Plan with assistance and guidance from officers at Three Rivers District Council (TRDC). The Plan had gone out for consultation with the local community and had now been submitted to TRDC for the next stage in the regulations; a statutory duty for TRDC to consult on the Regulation 16 under the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations. Officers were satisfied that the legal requirements had been met.

At the same time, TRDC was required to re-consult on the Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan.

Members commented that a lot of excellent work had been done by both the officers, Batchworth Community Council and Sarratt Parish Council.

A Member asked if any NPPF changes happening now, before the examination takes place, would have to be reflected in this Neighbourhood Plan.

The Head of Policy Planning and Conservation would investigate this and update Members.

After concerns raised by a Member about delays to the Batchwood Neighbourhood Plan being brought to the Policy and Resources Committee, the Head of Planning Policy and Conservation agreed to investigate the timeline.

The Chair proposed to move the officer's recommendation and this was seconded by Councillor Scarth.

RESOLVED: that the Policy and Resources Committee AGREED to

- i. note the report and agree the Batchworth NDP for consultation; and**
- ii. note that the Council will be reconsulting on the Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan.**

PR824 HOUSING DELIVERY TEST ACTION PLAN

Aaron Roberts, Senior Planning Officer presented the report.

Members referred to paragraph 4.26 in the officer's report regarding a review of Council owned land and asked if it was a valid plan. The Director of Finance explained that this was to achieve delivery. There was a programme in place to build on the garage sites and talks were taking place with Hertfordshire County Council.

Members asked officer's about the impact of Biodiversity Net Gain. The Head of Planning Policy and Conservation explained that it was a challenge across both policy and planning development management and officers were having to learn new areas of expertise, very quickly. It would also affect the number of dwellings that could be put on a specific site.

The Chair proposed to move the officer's recommendations and this was seconded by Counsellor Whateley-Smith.

RESOLVED: that the Policy and Resources Committee AGREED to

- i. note the Housing Delivery Test Result for 2022;**
- ii. agree the Action Plan and the series of actions that the Council will seek to implement;**
- iii. agree to the publication of the Action Plan on the Council's website.**

PR924 USE OF S106 FUNDING FOR BENCHES AT THE HORSES' FIELD, LEAVESDEN COUNTRY PARK

Alison Scott, the Director of Finance, presented the report.

A Member asked what "Replacement Land" meant in reference to paragraph 2.6 of the officers report. The Chair would confirm in writing, what this referred to.

There was an error in the title of the report which should read "S106" not "S016".

Councillor Lloyd proposed to move the officer's recommendation and this was seconded by Councillor Whately-Smith.

RESOLVED: that the Policy and resources Committee AGREED that the proposal to request to use £1,720 of S106 funding to install 2 benches at The Horses' Field, Leavesden Country Park, as outlined in section 2, is approved and that budget should be made available by Council as part of the next budget monitoring report.

CHAIR