
Development Control Panel

**Report of the meetings held on 17th December 2007
and 21st January 2008**

Matters for Information

**16. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: THE CORE STRATEGY –
PREFERRED OPTIONS**

Further to Item No. 13 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 5th December, 2007, the Panel has endorsed the content of the Core Strategy: Preferred Options document having had the opportunity to attend various stakeholder meetings and seminars in the interim and to discuss the matter informally.

The Panel has been assured that the Core Strategy has been drafted to take account of the policies emerging from the Sustainable Community Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy and that it would indicate that the District Council planned to achieve a minimum of 40% affordable housing provision from proposed new development.

**17. THE VALIDATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS –
STANDARDISATION OF PLANNING APPLICATION FORMS**

The Government proposes to introduce, with effect from 6th April 2008, a new national application form for planning permission to be known as 1APP. Draft “best practice” guidance has been issued to support the use of the standard application form and this has provided assistance on the scope of information that should be supplied with planning applications as specified in “local lists” which are drawn from a nationally defined list but which include items of relevance to particular locations i.e. flood risk assessments. 1APP will be available online and in its electronic format, will determine the scope of planning consents required thus reducing the possibility of an invalid application. The Government anticipates that this process will result in faster decision making. Having noted the potential impact of the new procedures on the Development Control team and in accordance with the necessary process for adoption, the Panel has endorsed the content of the suggested “local list” for consultation with relevant stakeholders with a view to implementation of the new arrangements from 6th April 2008.

18. HUNTINGDONSHIRE DESIGN GUIDE REVIEW: PILOT PROJECT

In Item No. 19 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 6th December 2006, the Panel reported upon their involvement in training and exercises to contribute to the compilation of design review methodology through which completed developments would be assessed with a view to improving the planning application and design process in the future. At that time, Members had expressed some disquiet at the scoring methodology suggested, the repetition of questions and the absence of criteria relating to landscaping and quality of detail/workmanship.

Subsequently another pilot project has been proposed which will comprise a review of four developments in Huntingdon. Having suggested that the procedure for review be adjusted to avoid limiting consideration of schemes to a gross site area of more than 0.5ha, given that small developments could equally be significant in terms of good or bad design, the Panel has approved the proposed assessment method and procedure subject to review after the pilot project and a trial period of twelve months duration.

19. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Over two meetings, the Panel has determined a total of twenty-one development applications of which twelve were approved, eight refused and one deferred to allow the submission of a detailed dimensional plan and a more definitive comment from the Local Highway Authority.

Of particular interest to the Council will be the consent given by the Panel to an application for the construction of an all weather football pitch and floodlights at the St Ivo Outdoor Complex, California Road, St Ives.

P G Mitchell
Chairman