
Development Management Panel

Report of the meetings held on 18th November and 9th December 2013

Matters for Information

10. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT: 1ST JULY TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013

The Panel has undertaken its regular review of the activities of the Development Management Service covering the period 1st July to 30th September 2013 and compared performance with the preceding quarter and that of the corresponding period in 2012. Looking at the number of major, minor and other applications which had been determined within the timescales of 13 or 8 weeks specified, it is apparent that lower percentages have been dealt with than formerly may have been the case. For example 62% rather than 89% and 59% rather than 69% when comparing the previous quarter for the determination of major and minor applications respectively. The Panel has been advised that several Officers would shortly be leaving the service and as it was not the expectation that they would be replaced at this time, the Panel was likely to receive shorter reports and less dedicated Officer time to respond to detailed matters before meetings.

Recognising a small reduction in fee income compared to the corresponding period in 2012, the Panel has been reminded that this was variable but largely depended on the scale and nature of applications received. The Panel has noted, however, that the recent validation of several major applications would have a positive impact on fee levels.

11. MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT THE FORMER ALCONBURY AIRFIELD SITE AND NEIGHBOURING FARMLAND, ERMINE, STREET, THE STUKELEYS

Further to Item No 11 of the Report of the meeting held on 21st October, a special meeting of the Panel has subsequently been held to consider the progress in negotiations with the developers and other infrastructure providers in terms of the proposed package of developer contributions to be secured through the Community Infrastructure Levy and S106 Agreement for each phase of the redevelopment of the former Alconbury Airfield.

Representations were made to the Special Meeting by the Stukeleys Parish Council and the applicant and the Panel was advised of the support given by the Section 106 Agreement Advisory Group for the proposed terms of the Section 106 obligations.

Having had a further opportunity to discuss the details of the application and following a robust exchange of concerns, the Panel considered that the proposals represented a balanced position and provided the District Council and its partners with an acceptable way to deliver corporate aims.

Because the application proposed retail, leisure and office development on land which is edge of centre, out of centre or out of town and consisted of or included the provision of buildings where the floor space to be created is 5000 sq metres or more, the application was required to be referred (should the Council be minded to support it) to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Having expressed their satisfaction with the phasing of the development, the arrangements for submission of reserved matters in accordance with relevant phases and conditions and having acknowledged the importance of effective joint working with the County Council and other stakeholders, the Panel recommended to a Special Meeting of the Council that it was minded to approve the application subject to satisfactory completion of the related Section 106 Agreement and imposition of appropriate conditions by the Assistant Director, Environment, Growth & Planning after consultation with the Chairmen of the Panel and the Section 106 Agreement Advisory Group and the Executive Councillor for Planning & Housing Strategy.

12. OTHER DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

In addition to the proposals for development at Alconbury Airfield, the Panel has determined seven other development applications of which six were approved and one refused.

D B Dew
Chairman