
JOINT PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE 17.06.11

Present:

Councillors: Stephen Churchman, Trevor Edwards, O.P. Huws, Owain Williams, W.J. Chorlton, Lewis Davies, Kenneth P. Hughes and Eric Roberts

Also present: Aled Davies (Head of Regulatory Department, Gwynedd Council), Jim Woodcock (Head of Planning and Public Protection Service, Isle of Anglesey County Council), Gareth Jones (Environmental Services Manager, Gwynedd Council), Rhun ap Iarll (Senior Solicitor, Gwynedd Council), Nia Haf Davies (Planning Policy Manager, Joint Planning Policy Unit) and Aled Lewis (Senior Planning Officer, Joint Planning Policy Unit).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor W. Gareth Roberts as Chair of the Committee for the period of 2011-12.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor John Chorlton as Vice-chair of the Committee for the period of 2011-12.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Gareth Roberts, Arwel Pierce, John Wyn Williams, H. Eifion Jones and Commissioner Alex Aldridge.

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any member present.

5. URGENT ITEMS

No urgent matter was submitted.

6. MINUTES

It was agreed that the minutes of the Joint Planning Policy Committee, held on 25 March 2011, were a true record.

7. DELIVERY AGREEMENT

Submitted – the report of the Planning Policy Manager noting the steps which had been taken thus far in terms of the Delivery Agreement. It was emphasised that the Delivery Agreement was a statutory document and a decision would have to be made by both Councils on its content prior to seeking approval from the Welsh Government. It was noted that 25 observations had been received during the consultation period. Minor amendments to the Delivery Agreement were proposed in response to the observations received. The Head of Regulatory Department emphasised that the next nine months would be key during the process of drawing up the JLDP.

The following matters were raised by members:

- i) A member enquired whether progress had been made on the Plan in accordance with the timetable. It was confirmed that the work undertaken on the Plan thus far had been in keeping with the timetable in the Delivery Agreement.
- ii) A member noted that there was no mention of the Welsh language in the strategic figures in Appendix 2, or the need for a linguistic assessment. The Planning Policy Manager agreed to look into this.
- iii) A member enquired how TAN20 could be used in order to strengthen the Welsh language in areas within the Plan Area. The Head of Regulatory Department noted that opinion varied as to how suitable the TAN was. It was noted that the consultation period on the amended TAN had ended and that the Gwynedd Council observations on the document had been scrutinised by the Council Board. It was noted that the TAN provided an explanation as to how the LDP should consider the linguistic impacts and the guidance would be considered in the process of drawing up the Plan. The Planning Policy Manager added that the framework of the Strategic Environmental Assessment considered the Welsh language in the area. The LDP would also be subject to a Language Impact Assessment.
- iv) A member enquired whether the Unit had opened a register of candidate sites for the LDP. It was noted that the unit had not reached this stage of the process yet. It was intended to place a notice in the local papers to notify the public that there would be an opportunity for them to submit sites in time. The unit will re-contact people who had already submitted sites for the previous LDP in Anglesey. It was also noted that existing sites would need to be reassessed as part of the process of assessing the suitability of the sites.
- v) A member noted that defining the heritage of post-quarrying areas such as Dyffryn Nantlle needed to be looked at and that reference needed to be made to quarrying monuments. It was noted that it was important to consider heritage.

RESOLVED to approve the Delivery Agreement subject to the observations about the Welsh language and culture.

8. THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE ANGLESEY AND GWYNEDD JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (JLDP)

Submitted – the report of the Planning Policy Manager on the need to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the LDP. The importance of ensuring that the evidence was robust when undertaking the SEA/SA process was highlighted. It was noted that there were specific stages in the process and that the assessment needed to be started as soon as possible.

The following matters were raised by members:

- i) One member noted that there were concerns regarding the impact of wind turbines and pylons on the landscape. He emphasised that a policy needed to be drawn up in order to safeguard the landscape against the harmful impact of such developments. It was also noted that it was important to seek the advice of specialists when drawing up policies on this subject. Another member noted that, whilst it was important to safeguard the landscape against the impact, it was also important to promote renewable energy developments in the Plan. The Planning Policy Manager noted that renewable energy and the impact of developments such as wind turbines on the landscape would be addressed in the LDP. It was noted that the unit had already started working on a supplementary planning guidance in order to give guidance on existing policies on this subject.

RESOLVED to approve the report.

At the end of the meeting, the Planning Policy Manager noted the dates of subsequent Committees: 9 September 2011, 7 October 2011, 11 November 2011, 2 December 2011, 20 January 2012, 3 February 2012 and 2 March 2012.