

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the CABINET held on WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2012 at 6.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor A Geary (Chair)  
Councillors Bald, Dransfield and Hopkins

**Officers:** N Fenwick (Assistant Director [Planning, Economy and Development]), M Kelly (Principal Solicitor), J Jones (Head of Portfolio Office), R Wilson (Development Plans Manager) and S Heap (Democratic Services Manager).

**Apologies:** Councillors Bint, Brock and P Geary

**Also Present** Councillors Bramall, Legg, McLean and C Williams

**Members of the Public:** 55

**C19 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Councillor A Geary disclosed his interest in Item 6 (Wind Turbine Supplementary Planning Document and Interim Policy).

**C20 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Councillor Bramall asked Councillor A Geary (the Leader of the Council), if, bearing in mind the current concerns about two skate parks in the Borough, whether the Cabinet would consider instigating a review of the Council's Policy with regard to the provision of play areas.

Councillor A Geary indicated that the Council took the provision of play areas very seriously and recognised that, while play areas were a very important amenity, it was important that they were located in the correct places and did not cause a nuisance to residents.

Councillor A Geary also indicated that he thought that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to consider a review of the Council's Policy with regard to play area provision, including its relationship with planning policy, with a view to requesting the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to progress the review and make recommendations to the Cabinet.

The Cabinet noted that this matter was already on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee's Work Programme.

(Councillor A Geary vacated the Chair and retired to the Public Gallery, Councillor Hopkins was Chair.)

**WIND TURBINE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT AND INTERIM POLICY**

The Cabinet considered a draft Wind Turbines Supplementary Planning Document and Emerging Policy: Wind Turbines Planning Applications document.

The Cabinet noted that the document introduced separation distances between wind turbines and dwellings and that it had been updated to reflect the change to national planning policy.

The Cabinet recognised that the Supplementary Planning Document and Emerging Policy document would supplement Policy D5 of the Adopted Local Plan and be a material consideration in the determination of future wind turbine planning applications by the Council, but it would not carry the same weight as planning policy.

It was reported that the Supplementary Planning Document and Emerging Policy had been subject to extensive consultation, including with parish councils, the wind turbine industry and culminated with a workshop for all Members of the Council.

The Cabinet noted that if it was not to adopt the Supplementary Planning Document and Emerging Policy the guidance contained therein would not be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Other options discussed by the Cabinet included deferring consideration of the Supplementary Planning Document and Emerging Policy to allow any further suggested amendments to be incorporated, or not adopting the Supplementary Planning Document and Emerging Policy in favour of preparing a formal policy as part of a Development Plan Document in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Cabinet also considered the possibility of adopting the Supplementary Planning Document and Emerging Policy, together with agreeing to prepare a formal policy as part of a Development Plan Document. However, it was considered that work on a formal policy as part of a Development Plan Document would be better considered in light of the outcome of the Core Strategy Examination in Public.

The Cabinet also received a copy of a report by Ecosulis prepared on behalf of the Council which reviewed the Draft Wind Supplementary Planning Document, together with a letter from Eversheds Solicitors suggesting that it might undertake a legal challenge to the Supplementary Planning Document and Emerging Policy if adopted by the Council

In considering this matter the Cabinet heard from five members of the public, Councillor A Geary, together with Councillors Legg and Williams.

RESOLVED -

That the Wind Turbine Supplementary Planning Document and Emerging Policy: Wind Turbines Planning Applications document, be adopted.

(Councillor A Geary disclosed his interest in this Item and left the meeting after making a statement from the public gallery, taking no part in the discussion, or voting on the Item.)

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:01 PM

DRAFT