

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP

**Held on Tuesday, 21 February 2017 at 2.00 pm in
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Dereham**

PRESENT

Mr S.G. Bambridge (Chairman) Mr M. S. Robinson
Mr S. H. Chapman-Allen

Also Present

Mr W.P. Borrett

In Attendance

James Mann	- Planning Policy Officer*
Sarah Robertson	- Senior Planning Policy Officer*
Julie Britton	- Democratic Services Officer
Phil Mileham	- Strategic Planning Manager
Ken Bean	- Principal Policy Planner*
	Capita for Breckland Council*

The items below were discussed following the adjournment of the meeting held on 3 February 2017.

13/17 NON MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

Councillor Bill Borrett.

14/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)

The Chairman announced that this was a continuation of the adjourned meeting held on 3 February 2017 and only the two items remaining from that meeting would be discussed – these were agenda items 11 and 12.

15/17 STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT AND SEQUENTIAL TEST (ADJOURNED ITEM AGENDA ITEM 11)

Sarah Robertson, the Senior Planning Policy Officer presented the report.

The Council had commissioned consultants AECOM to prepare a Water Cycle Study and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to support the Local Plan. Both these studies had been prepared with a stakeholder working group which incorporated the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Norfolk County Council as the lead local flood authority. The Water Cycle Study was still being finalised and was expected to be reported at a subsequent Local Plan Working Group.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment looks at flood risk from all sources of flooding including rivers, surface water, groundwater, sewers and artificial water courses. This assessment had provided a new set of maps for each of

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the growth locations and also a more detailed settlement appraisal which had both been used for the sequential test.

The aim of the sequential test was to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding and had assessed all the sites within the Local Plan currently identified as preferred sites or reasonable alternative sites.

The Chairman asked if every planning application would have to have its own Flood Risk Assessment. Members were informed that it would depend on the size of the application; the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) identified this threshold.

Following the assessment, a number of preferred and alternative sites at risk of flooding had been identified. It was proposed that preferred sites for Banham LP(003)003 and Necton LP(067)007 not be allocated for development in the Local Plan. Additionally, it was proposed that the status of the alternative sites identified (see report) would be reviewed and considered as unreasonable options.

The report then assessed the need for an exception test and found that subject to the removal of sites following the sequential test, an exception test would not be required. However, if the sites were not removed from the Local Plan then an exception test would be needed.

Referring to the data gathering exercise that the consultants had undertaken with various organisations, the Chairman stated that the Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Boards should not be discounted and should be asked for their help and assistance.

Referring to section 3.4.2 of Appendix A, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment document, in relation to the historic records of river flooding, the Chairman advised that the most significant risk of flooding in Norfolk was from the River Wensum and he had been surprised that this had not been mentioned in the report.

The Chairman had also noticed the flood warning areas highlighted at section 3.4.5 of the document particularly in relation to the River Wensum where it made no mention of the parishes of Elsing or Lyng both of which were subject to flooding. The Chairman did believe however, that this could be mainly caused by the filling in of ditches.

In response to a request, the Strategic Planning Manager explained the sequential test exemptions.

Referring to all the extra information being required, Councillor Borrett asked if this would be managed by Breckland Council. Members were informed such information would normally be submitted with the applications, inspected by Breckland Council and/or Norfolk County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority.

It was

RESOLVED that the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Sequential Test be endorsed as evidence base to support the Local Plan and published on the Council's website as part of the Local Plan documents library.

**16/17 INDOOR AND BUILT SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY
(ADJOURNED ITEM - AGENDA ITEM 12)**

James Mann, Planning Policy Officer presented the report.

Breckland Council had commissioned Neil Allen Associates (NAA) Ltd to produce the Indoor and Built Sports and Recreational Facilities Study in August 2016.

The report was commissioned to:

- a) review the current supply and demand for sports and recreation facilities in the district;
- b) model the demand to assess the current and projected over/under supply of facilities using a recognised modelling technique that satisfies the requirements of Sport England e.g. Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and to;
- c) provide conclusions and recommendations.

The first stage of the study was explained and the key findings were highlighted; including the usage, quality, quantity and demand of swimming pools, sports halls, artificial grass pitches, indoor bowling, indoor tennis squash and health and fitness. The second stage would be completed in the near future.

The recommendation had been made in order to comply with regulations within the National Planning Policy Framework.

In response to a number of questions, the Strategic Planning Manager advised that some of the provision could be funded through contributions from new development but in relation to any wider decisions on the Council's approach to delivering leisure, this would be for other forums noting that the Council had arrangements for delivery via a PFI contract. Providing sports facilities was not a statutory function of the Council and would not necessarily be for the Local Plan to resolve.

The Chairman noted that some forms of fitness and leisure facilities such as classes in village halls etc had not been included in the Study including private swimming pools and felt that these should be taken into account to guide the Council over the next 20 years. Councillor Robinson agreed and also mentioned many formalised facilities in public spaces. The Chairman suggested including a paragraph in the document as there was a great deal more activities going on in the District than what had been written.

Members were assured that these points would be clarified in the final report.

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted and Part 1 of the Indoor and Built Sports Recreational Facilities Study be agreed to form part of the Council's evidence base for the Local Plan subject to amendments and then published on the Council's website.