

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2019

- PRESENT:** Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Chair)
Councillor Robert Llewelyn Jones (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors T LI Hughes MBE, Vaughan Hughes, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Margaret M Roberts and Nicola Roberts.
- Councillor R A Dew – Portfolio Holder for Planning & Public Protection (for item 4).
- Councillor R Meirion Jones – Portfolio Holder for Education, Youth, Libraries & Culture (for item 5).
- Mrs Anest Frazer – The Church in Wales,
Mr Keith Roberts – The Roman Catholic Church,
Mr Dafydd Gruffydd – Managing Director – Medrwn Môn.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community & Service Improvements),
Head of Regulation and Economic Development (for item 4),
Chief Planning Officer (DFJ) (for item 4),
Standards & Inclusions Senior Manager (GMH) (for item 5),
Scrutiny Manager (AD),
Scrutiny Officer (GWR),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Glyn Haynes, K P Hughes.
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Llinos M Huws – Leader of the Council
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1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Nicola Roberts declared a prejudicial interest in item 4 – Supplementary Planning Guidance – Maintaining and Creating Distinctive and Sustainable Communities (Draft following Public Consultation) and left the meeting during consideration and voting thereon.

Councillors T LI Hughes MBE, Vaughan Hughes and Dafydd Roberts declared that they are members of the Planning and Orders Committee with regard to discussions in respect of item 4 – Supplementary Planning Guidance – Maintaining and Creating Distinctive and Sustainable Communities (Draft following Public Consultation).

Councillor R A Dew said that whilst not a member of the Scrutiny Committee he declared an interest with regard to item 4 – Supplementary Planning Guidance – Maintaining and Creating Distinctive and Sustainable Communities (Draft following Public Consultation)

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March, 2019 were confirmed as correct.

4 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE - MAINTAINING AND CREATING DISTINCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES (DRAFT FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATION)

Submitted – a report by the Planning Policy Manager – Joint Planning Policy Unit (Gwynedd and Anglesey) in relation to the above.

The Portfolio Holder – Planning & Public Protection said that the Anglesey & Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan was adopted July 2017 and is operational during the period up to 2026. Although the Development Plan contains policies that enable the Local Planning Authority to make consistent and transparent decisions on development applications, it is unable to provide all the detailed advice required by Officers and prospective applicants to steer proposals locally. In order to provide this detailed advice, the Councils are preparing a range of SPG's to support the Plan that will provide more detailed guidance on a variety of topics and matters to help interpret and implement the Plan's policies and proposals. The initial draft was considered by Members of the Joint Local Development Plan Panel (which has an equal number of members from both Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils) and following the consultation on the SPG the Joint Planning Policy Committee will be making a decision regarding the suitability for adoption at its meeting on 23 May, 2019.

The Chief Planning Officer reported that the purpose of the report is to raise awareness of the development of the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Maintaining and creating distinctive and sustainable communities amongst members of the Scrutiny Committee and to ensure that it is scrutinized prior to the Joint Planning Policy Committee making a decision regarding its suitability for adoption at its meeting on 23 May, 2019. It was noted that the Communities Scrutiny Committee (Gwynedd Council) has discussed the report on 4 April, 2019. He expressed that once the SPG's are approved they are relevant planning considerations when dealing with planning applications and the Planning and Orders Committee will be required to follow the guidance within the SPG. Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate also gives weight to the SPG's that are consistent with local development plans.

The Supplementary Planning Guidance seeks to ensure that the following Policies regarding sustainable development are integrated within the development process:-

- PS1 – Welsh Language and Welsh Culture;
- PS5 - Sustainable Development;
- PS6 - Mitigation of Climate Change effects.

The SPG before this Committee is to provide detailed guidance on specific policies to ensure that they are effectively and consistently implemented across the area covered by the Joint Local Development Plan. Guidance cannot change policies or proposals set out in the Local Development Plan and new policies can't be introduced through Supplementary Planning Guidance.

The Chief Planning Officer reported that Appendix 1 of the report refers to the public consultation which was undertaken with regard to the SPG from 3th December 2018 to 31st January 2019. It was noted that 88 representations were received from 8 representatives/organisations; most representations were accepted apart from matters received which entailed changing planning policies or were for matters already addressed in the SPG. Appendix 2 attached to the report, is a draft copy of the SPG, however some editorial work still needs to be undertaken to incorporate all the recommended changes.

The Guidance is divided into 3 Sections. Section 1 provides guidance on policies within the Plan that permit developments that are necessary to create distinctive and sustainable places. Section 2 (and the majority of the Appendices to the Guidance) deals specifically with how to apply Policy PS1, The Welsh Language and Welsh Culture. Appendix 6 provides examples of actions/activities that could be incorporated in developments and/or requested in order to make a development acceptable (in terms of planning land use). Appendices 7 and 8 provide methodologies to undertake relevant assessments of effects. Section 3 identifies the surveys and documents that must be submitted with the planning application, depending on the nature, scale and location of the proposed developments.

The Officer outlined the next steps and timetable as regard to the SPG and noted that the Joint Planning Policy Committee will consider, at its meeting to be held on 23 May, 2019 the comments received by the Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee; the feedback received during the public consultation; final draft copy of the Supplementary Planning Guidance in order to decide if the Guidance is suitable for adoption (and therefore replaces the existing Supplementary Planning Guidance covering this subject).

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main matters:-

- Reference was made that 88 representations were received with regard to the SPG. Questioned raised whether the service was disappointed as to the amount of representations received and reference was made that no representations was received by the Community Councils' on Anglesey. The Chief Planning Officer responded that all the Community Councils have been approached but noted that it is important to note that it is the substance of representations

received that is paramount to the SPG; the representations received have been constructive;

- Questions raised as to whether the SPG could in time change planning policies. The Chief Planning Officer responded that there are monitoring steps undertaken on a continued basis and performance indicators will be undertaken as part of that process which could amend planning policies;
- Clarification was sought as to whether the process within the planning process is robust enough to protect the Welsh language and culture within rural communities when a large planning application is submitted. The Chief Planning Officer responded that at present the previous SPG's (adopted under the previous development plan) which is currently been used does not give up to date guidance in terms of methodology as regards to language assessments. The draft SPG before this Committee will give guidance to developers as to the procedures required and will ensure that core information as regards to the Welsh language and culture is submitted with planning applications and to allow developers as to how to define the requirements of the SPG within its context;
- Reference was made that decisions by both Planning Committees may be subject to challenge and an appeal will be submitted to Welsh Government. Questions were raised as to whether the SPG before this Committee was robust enough to be able to challenge appeal decisions. The Chief Planning Officer responded that Welsh Government has placed a lot of emphasis on SPG's which are consistent with adopted Local Development Plan;
- Reference was made that large potential development on the Island i.e. Bluestone and Newry Beach development, could have potential effects on the Welsh language. The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Waste Management responded that the guidance within the SPG is to protect and strengthen the Welsh language. The Joint Planning Policy Committee has been discussing the guidance since September 2017;
- Reference was made that even small development could affect the ethos of the Welsh language within a rural area. Questions were raised as to how the SPG could protect such development in rural areas. The Chief Planning Officer responded that the SPG addresses developments within larger towns within both local authorities when planning applications of more than 10 dwellings are proposed, a Welsh language impact assessment needs to be attached to the application thereafter. However, if a rural area is designated as a development area an additional application to the minimum set out within the Joint Local Development Plan is exceeded then a Welsh language impact assessment would be required. Developers will need to seek professional individuals to produce a Welsh language and Culture impact assessment.

It was RESOLVED to accept the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Maintaining and creating distinctive and sustainable communities as presented in Appendix 1 of the report.

ACTION: To inform the Joint Planning Policy Committee that the Isle of Anglesey County Council has accepted the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Maintaining and creating distinctive and sustainable communities.

5 PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SCHOOLS PROGRESS REVIEW - SCRUTINY PANEL

Submitted – a progress report by the Chair of the Scrutiny Schools Progress Review Panel and the Standards & Inclusions Senior Manager.

The Chair said that representatives from the Committee have recently been shadowing GwE activities within Ysgol y Borth, Menai Bridge; attended a Conference at Venue Cymru, Llandudno for Head Teachers across North Wales with Shirley Clarke educational specialist addressing the Conference and a training session by GwE as regards to Wales Curriculum was also attended. The Chair noted that Members will be reporting back to this Committee as regards to the activities arranged by GwE in due course.

The Standards & Inclusions Senior Manager reported that the report summaries the work of the School Progress Review Scrutiny Panel from 7th November, 2018 to 2nd April, 2019. The Panel has met with Schools Head Teachers and Chair of Governors as well as discussed arrangements to shadow GwE at various activities.

The Panel met as follows:-

- 22 November, 2018 – Ysgol Gynradd Corn Hir and Ysgol Gynradd Heblas;
- 13 December, 2018 – Ysgol Uwchradd David Hughes and monitoring Learning Service Action Plan;
- 24 January, 2019 – Ysgol Gynradd Bodedern
- 15 February, 2019 – Ysgol Gynradd Llanfairpwll and Ysgol Gynradd Santes Fair;
- 22 March, 2019 – Consideration of shadowing GwE arrangements and self-evaluation.

The Officer said that the School Progress Review Scrutiny Panel has attained better understanding of the process of the joint working between the Education Authority and GwE which has strengthened accountability within Anglesey's schools. It was noted that Anglesey does not have a school within the red and most of the schools are within the yellow category of Welsh Government new performance tables.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following matters:-

- It was considered that every Member of the Council should be afforded the opportunity to attain information as regards to the new education curriculum and the facilities afforded by GwE. The Chief Executive reported that arrangements have been made for GwE representatives to attend Members Briefing Sessions in the near future as regards to the education curriculum. The Scrutiny Manager said that three additional briefing sessions have been programmed to receive a presentation by GwE as regards to the new education curriculum and also to address the new special education needs act;
- Reference was made as regards to cuts within financial resources within schools in general and possible strain on schools to attain educational standards. Questions raised as to whether the School Progress Review

Scrutiny Panel has discuss this issue. The Standards & Inclusions Senior Manager responded that schools will be challenged as regards to financial resources within schools in the future. She noted that schools will need find more effective ways to afford the best education for pupils within their schools.

The Portfolio Holder for Education, Youth, Libraries & Culture thanked the School Progress Review Scrutiny Panel for their work and said that the work of the Panel has assisted the improvements within the schools on Anglesey and the joint working with GwE to raise standards.

It was RESOLVED :-

- **To agree that the Panel is providing robust challenge on individual school's performance;**
- **To note that the Panel is focusing on developing shadowing arrangements with GwE to enable Members to attend various schools monitoring, support and training events;**
- **To note that the Panel will continue to monitor the implementation of the Learning Services Monitoring Plan;**
- **That the Panel is not aware of any key message that is currently in need of escalation to the Executive.**

ACTION : As noted above.

6 WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted – a report by the Scrutiny Officer on the Committee's Work Programme to July 2019.

It was RESOLVED to note the Work Programme to July 2019.

ACTION : As above.

**COUNCILLOR GWILYM O JONES
CHAIR**