

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Southend-on-Sea Local Development Framework Working Party

Date: Tuesday, 15th September, 2015

Place: Committee Room 2 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor D Norman MBE (Chair)
Councillors B Ayling, J Courtenay, A Crystall, J Garston and
C Walker

In Attendance: M Thomas, M Sheppard, D Hermitage and R Harris

Start/End Time: 18.00/19.00

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Assenheim and Callaghan (no substitutes).

2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor J Garston - Agenda Item 4 (Southend Central Area Action Plan) - Non-pecuniary interest - reference to Clifftown Conservation area - lives in the vicinity.

3 Minutes of last meeting

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 Southend-on-Sea Central Area Action Plan

The Working Party considered a report of the Corporate Director for Place which presented the Cabinet report setting out the Preferred Approach Public Consultation version of the Southend Central Area Action Plan (SCAAP) which was scheduled for statutory consultation in November for a minimum of 6 weeks. The report will be considered by Cabinet on 22nd September 2015.

In response to a number of questions the officers explained the approach being taken to the consultation. The consultation was aimed at anybody with an interest in the central area and as part of the process a range of workshops and engagement events would be held with residents associations, businesses, etc, if resources allow.

The officers also provided clarification on the rationale for the way in which the questions have been set out. It was essential that respondents provide evidence and a rationale for their responses.

The Working Party had an in-depth discussion on the various elements of the consultation document and made the following comments and suggested minor amendments:

- Some of the questions could be reframed and simplified to yes/no and why responses (officers would review previous consultations and take the suggestion into consideration when framing the final consultation document);
- An Executive Summary/easy read version should be produced to sit alongside the consultation document (officers agreed that there was merit in providing a summary document);
- Remove the references to 'Policy Area' under Paragraph 26 on page 17;
- Add references to health (such as doctors surgeries, dentists and health centres) and education (expansion of the college and university) to Paragraph 29 on page 20;
- Add a reference to the management of empty shop frontages under Policy DS1 on page 23 (e.g. the use of frontage 'wrap-arounds'/art coverings); and
- Revise the wording under (a) Housing on Page 7 to read "The 'core' town centre...."

The Working Party also discussed a number of other issues such as car parking capacity and accessibility of the town centre. The officers explained that these issues were covered in the consultation document.

Resolved:

1. That, subject to the minor amendments made at the meeting (summarised above), the recommendations contained in the report to Cabinet be supported.

Chairman: _____