

CABINET (SPECIAL MEETING)

HELD: 14 December 2011

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7.50pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Grant (Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

Councillors		<u>Portfolio</u>
	Ashcroft	Public Realm and Human Resources
	Forshaw	Planning and Technical Services
	Fowler	Health and Leisure
	Mrs Hopley	Landlord Services and Community Safety
	Owens	Deputy Leader & Housing (Finance), Regeneration and Estates
	Westley	Resources and Transformation

In attendance	Fillis	R A Pendleton
Councillors:	O'Toole	Sudworth

Officers

- Managing Director (People and Places) (Mrs G Rowe)
- Managing Director (Transformation) (Ms K Webber)
- Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration (Mr R Livermore)
- Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)
- Borough Treasurer (Mr M Taylor)
- Borough Planner (Mr J Harrison)
- Deputy Borough Planner (Mr I Gill)
- Property Services Manager (Mr P Holland)
- LDF Team Leader (Mr P Richards)
- Member Services Manager (Mr G Martin)

88. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Fowler and Westley declared Personal and Prejudicial interests in item 4a ((Core Strategy Preferred Options) as they are Trustees of the Comrades of the Great War Club, the premises of which were referred to in the report. They indicated that they would leave the meeting in the event of there being any discussion in relation to this site.

90. SPECIAL URGENCY (RULE 16 ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES)/URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Special urgency.

91. MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS

Consideration was given to reports on matters requiring a decision, as contained on pages 1059 to 1089 of the Book of Reports.

92. CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED OPTIONS (CSPO) - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Councillor Forshaw introduced the report of the Borough Planner recommending the Council's response to each of the representations received as a result of the consultation exercise in relation to the Core Strategy Preferred Options Document (CSPO).

A document detailing the responses received had been made available for all members on request and incorporated in the Cabinet Book of Reports, starting after page 1066 of that volume. The document was also published and available for inspection on the Council's website.

Cabinet members also had before them copies of the decisions arising from consideration of the report at the Executive Overview and Scrutiny and Planning Committees.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

RESOLVED: A. That the representations received during the CSPO consultation in May/June 2011 be noted and the proposed response of the Council to each representation received, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

B. That Call In is not appropriate for this item as the report has previously been considered by the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

93. PREFERRED OPTION LOCAL PLAN

Councillor Forshaw introduced the report of the Borough Planner seeking approval, for consultation purposes, of the Local Plan Preferred Options document and its related documentation. The report reminded members that the Council had previously conducted a consultation exercise in relation to the Core Strategy Preferred Options and advised that this document had, to meet the requirements of the new National Planning Policy Framework arrangements, been incorporated into a single (Local Plan) document which also incorporated other documents stemming from the former Local Development Framework arrangements.

Copies of the Local Plan Preferred Options document and the related appendices were circulated prior to the meeting and have been included after page 1082 of the Cabinet Book of Reports, as well as on the Council's website.

Prior to the meeting, officers had circulated comments arising from consideration of the report by the LDF Cabinet Working Group and the Planning and Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committees, together with suggested responses to those comments and revised recommendations to reflect those suggested responses.

Members agreed to a 15-minute adjournment to afford an opportunity to read the additional information referred to above prior to the Cabinet making its decision(s) in relation to this item.

During the course of the debate following the adjournment referred to above, Members agreed to a further adjournment, pending the start of the Council meeting scheduled to start at 7.30pm. It was subsequently noted that the Council had agreed to adjourn its own proceedings to enable the Cabinet to conclude its business.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it, together with the additional information referred to, and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the six documents listed in Appendices 2-7 of the report, which will also be publicly available for comment as part of the Local Plan Preferred Options consultation, be noted.
 - B. That the minutes of the LDF Cabinet Working Group, 29 November 2011 and the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Planning Committee on 8 December and the comments referred to Cabinet as set out in those minutes, be noted.
 - C. That the responses to the Local Plan Regulation 25 Letter from key stakeholders and the comments from the Borough Planner, as circulated at the meeting, be noted.
 - D. That the views of the Borough Planner in response to the comments raised by the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Planning Committee as set out in the supplementary information circulated at the meeting, be noted and the suggested amendments, as set out in part 2 of that document, be endorsed, subject to appropriate changes being made to the wording of Policy RS2 to permit a more flexible approach to the location of off-site affordable housing provision and to the wording of table F4 (parking standards for higher and further education premises) in Appendix F and elsewhere in the document where necessary, to reflect a requirement of one parking space per 15 students.

- E. That subject to the amendments referred to in D. above, the Local Plan Preferred Options document at Appendix 1 to the report be approved for public consultation in January/February 2012.
- F. That the Borough Planner, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be authorised to make minor changes to the document prior to its release for consultation to either correct errors in the document or to provide improved or clarified working which does not alter the meaning of any policy or paragraph.
- E. That Call In is not appropriate for this item as the report has already been considered by the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the outcome of that consideration taken into account in reaching the decisions set out above.

94. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members noted that the report relating to the final item of business had initially been marked “not for publication” by officers, on the recommendation that the report contained information falling within one of the categories specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. At the meeting, it was agreed not to exclude the press and public for this item.

95. FINDON AND FIRBECK ESTATE, SKELMERSDALE

Councillor Mrs Hopley introduced the report of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration in relation to the intention to demolish all properties on the Firbeck and Findon estate in Skelmersdale and remodel.

Members noted that recent meetings between the Council’s officers and representatives of the Homes and Communities Agency and St Modwen’s had confirmed that the ongoing economic situation was such that there was little if any prospect of the original proposals for demolition and redevelopment work going forward. In the circumstances therefore officers were recommending a change of approach.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED:
- A That it be noted that the original intention to demolish and redevelop the whole of Findon and Firbeck Estate appears to be no longer feasible in the current economic climate.
 - B. That the Assistant Director of Housing and Regeneration and Borough Planner prepare revised proposals for consideration by Cabinet and Council in due course, prior to public consultation.
 - C. That the Assistant Director of Housing and Regeneration inform tenants and residents of Firbeck and Findon of this decision.