

LEAD MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment, Councillor Claire Dowling, on 19 October 2020 at County Hall, Lewes

++ The Lead Member was not present in person, but took the decisions remotely ++

Councillors Nick Bennett, Bob Bowdler, Godfrey Daniel, Rupert Simmons, Richard Stogdon, and Sylvia Tidy spoke on item 4 (see minute 20)

Councillor Tom Liddiard spoke on Item 5 (see minute 21)

Councillors John Barnes, Alan Shuttleworth and David Tutt spoke on items 4 and 5 (see minute 20 and 21)

17 DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2020

17.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2020.

18 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

18.1 Councillor John Barnes declared a personal interest in Item 5 as a Member of Rother District Council, but he did not consider this to be prejudicial.

19 REPORTS

19.1 Reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

20 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE WHITE PAPER

20.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport.

DECISIONS

20.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED (1) to note the reforms being proposed;

(2) to note the potential implications for ESCC; and;

(3) to endorse the key points that were set out in Section 4 of the report, which will be raised in the County Council's consultation response and provide delegated authority to the Director of Communities, Economy & Transport to expand upon these points in a full written response to the consultation prior to the deadline of the 29 October 2020. It was also agreed that the County Council's consultation response should endorse the representation made by the High Weald AONB Unit, raise concern that the reforms so not seem to address the matter of landbanking and that that it is not clear how the White Paper reforms tie in with matters such as Climate Change targets and the emerging Environment Act.

Reasons

20.3 Some of the proposals set out could be welcomed by the County Council (e.g. abolition of the five year housing land supply requirement), although with the caveat that this is

somewhat dependent on the detail that follows in legislation and policy. Some of the proposed reforms do, on the face of it, present potential concerns and/or require some clarification.

20.4 The proposed response to the consultation set out in the report suggests what the County Council wishes to see from the planning reforms. It includes a formal and statutory strategic level of plan-making, which could be used to determine and set binding targets for housing growth, as well as setting out a broad strategy for distribution and what strategic infrastructure will be necessary alongside this. The reforms should also allow for increased scope around the use of planning conditions to secure site specific infrastructure (in the absence of S.106 agreements) and it is suggested that the provision of affordable housing is dealt through a separate funding stream to the Infrastructure Levy.

21 PEVENSEY SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE - COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

21.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport.

DECISIONS

21.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to agree for East Sussex County Council to enter into a collaborative agreement with the Environment Agency to release funds for the Pevensey Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) project and to delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy & Transport to make the necessary arrangements.

Reasons

21.3 The Pevensey Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) project is compatible with both the Council Plan's priorities and the objective of the adopted East Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in that it looks to developing the optimal balance between the economic and social wellbeing of residents and the needs of its unique environment.