

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 18 February 2020

Present:

Councillor

Councillors	G Davies	S Kelly
	S Foulkes	I Lewis
	A Gardner	G Watt
	S Hayes	S Whittingham

19 MINUTES

The Director of Governance and Assurance submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2020 for approval.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2020 be approved.

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

21 COMMITTEE REPORT 4-2-20,

Members of the Sub Committee discussed Policy CS34A Coastal Defence and Erosion - Councillors requested assurance from officers that all council departments were working towards current climate emergency strategy.

Members of the Sub Committee discussed Policy CS34B Flood Risk - Officers advised that Environment Agency information was constantly evolving regarding the accurate mapping of flood zones. It was noted that the policy requirement for ground floors and basements to be above probable flood levels are based on worst case scenarios.

Members of the Sub Committee discussed Policy CS34C Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Natural Flood Management - Officers were advised to consider how the policy could tackle the risk of pollution from microplastic and other contamination entering the water system and the sea.

The Council's timely response to this year's severe weather was noted as an improvement from previous years, as local businesses have suffered less and coastal areas and roads were closed earlier on to protect resident's safety. Further measures to reduce flood risk such as the use and extent of permeable surfaces that could be secured within a site through planning applications were considered.

Members of the Sub Committee discussed Policy CS36 Pollution and Risk - Officers advised that the wording used in the policy gave flexibility to control all types of insect that could cause pollution and risk to health. Councillors also advised that pollinating insects such as bees should be encouraged.

Members of the Sub Committee discussed Policy CS37 Contamination and Instability – The committee regarded this as a broad policy to cover any contamination from industrial processes. It was noted that the policy has the ability to deal with invasive species that may cause harm and instability.

Members of the Sub Committee discussed Policy CS39 Waste Management – and noted the link to the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton.

22 **COMMITTEE REPORT ENFORCEMENT POLICY 2020**

Members of the Sub Committee discussed the proposed update for the Enforcement Policy 2020 - The Assistant Director of Major Growth Projects and Housing Delivery introduced the report. It explained how policy would be used to take action in circumstances where developments would be in breach of planning controls. The consequences a flow chart of actions to be taken and their timescales is also included within the report. The Council has invested in the planning department and there is now a permanent staff of four members.

Members took a dim view of non-compliance and the officers were advised to give further consideration to order of priority for dealing with controversial sensitive cases and protection of trees, including the issuing of emergency preservation orders. Local Plan policies and the link to emerging Tree Strategy - regarding the replanting of trees based on the Bristol the approach were also discussed.