

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

1. BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 seeks to reform the planning system to give local people new rights to shape the development of the communities in which they live.
- 1.2 The Act provides for a new type of community-led initiative known as a Neighbourhood Plan which sets out the policies on the development and use of land in a parish or 'neighbourhood area'.
- 1.3 In a parished area, the parish or town council has to initiate and lead the process. In a non-parished area, a neighbourhood forum has to be established for this purpose.
- 1.4 Neighbourhood planning offers communities a direct route for including their own local planning priorities and aspirations within the broader planning system.
- 1.5 But the process which is estimated to last at least 18 months can involve much work not only for the neighbourhood planning team, but also for the local planning authority which supports the process throughout and eventually arranges the independent examination and referendum.
- 1.6 The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee has therefore established a Task Group of its members to help determine the Council's stance towards neighbourhood planning.

2. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

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1	Review focus Neighbourhood Planning
2	Objective of the review (i) To assess the benefits and disbenefits of neighbourhood planning for parish councils, community groups and the local planning authority (ii) To identify criteria/ a checklist which can be used by the local planning authority to assess the potential of neighbourhood planning proposals and so offer advice to interested parish councils/community groups

3	<p>Outcomes of the review Guidance on neighbourhood planning for use by parish councils and community groups in the Borough of Scarborough</p>
4	<p>Membership including co-options Cllr Godfrey Allanson (Chair) Cllr Simon Green Cllr John Ritchie Cllr Johan Zegstroo</p>
5	<p>Officer support David Walker, Forward Planning Manager St John Harris, Overview and Scrutiny Manager</p>
6	<p>Questions to be addressed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should the Council's stance be towards neighbourhood plans? • What are the benefits and disbenefits of neighbourhood planning? • Are there more cost-effective ways of reflecting local communities' views in the planning process? • Are there alternative ways of realising local communities' aspirations for the areas in which they live? • Neighbourhood planning is one of a range of approaches to realise an agreed vision for an area – in what circumstances and based on what criteria can it be recommended by the Council to an interested parish council/community group?
7	<p>Constraints None at this stage</p>
8	<p>Stakeholders and communications All Members and officers within the Planning Service Local community groups Parish and town councils</p>
9	<p>Evidence and witnesses Adam Dodgshon, Principal Consultant, Planning Advisory Service John Romanski, Senior Neighbourhood Planning Adviser, Planning Aid England Sarah Housden, Policy Manager, North York Moors National Park Authority Jo Ireland, Community Partnerships Manager Jill Low, Planning Manager</p>
10	<p>Method Half day review – 27 September 2012 Half day review – 23 October 2012</p>

11	Reporting timetable Task Group report findings and recommendations to the parent committee on 3 December 2012
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- 2.2 The half day session on 27 September is the first of two public meetings chaired by Councillor Allanson to attempt to tease out some of the issues around neighbourhood planning: the first with the help of John Romanski, a planning consultant from Planning Aid England, and officers from Scarborough Borough Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority. Previously, the Task Group has been advised about the ‘theory’ of neighbourhood planning by Adam Dodgshon, Principal Consultant at the Planning Advisory Service.
- 2.3 The programme for the session (set out below) is in the form of two presentations to the Task Group, each followed by a roundtable discussion chaired by Councillor Allanson which enables both members and officers to ask Mr Romanski questions and provide comments.

St John Harris
Overview and Scrutiny Manager