

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

These minutes are draft until confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting.

Thursday, 31st March, 2022

Present:

Councillor Kevin Guy	Leader of the Council, Liberal Democrat Group Leader
Councillor Tim Ball	Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing
Councillor Alison Born	Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building
Councillor Tom Davies	Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building
Councillor Manda Rigby	Cabinet Member for Transport
Councillor Dine Romero	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture
Councillor Richard Samuel	Deputy Council Leader (statutory) and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources
Councillor Sarah Warren	Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel
Councillor David Wood	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services

16 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Kevin Guy, welcomed everyone watching and participating at the virtual Cabinet meeting. The Chair made the following statement:

“Due to the ongoing Covid situation and a desire to retain a level of social distancing at Council meetings at this time, we are holding this ‘informal’ virtual Cabinet meeting to enable Cabinet, Councillors and members of the public to take part. This virtual meeting will be conducted in the normal manner but, as any decisions made will not be legally enforceable, they will be formally made at the physically reduced, quorate decision-making meeting tomorrow on 1 April 2022.

We will review this approach for any future Cabinet meetings, in line with government and health guidance at that time.”

The Chair asked each of the Cabinet Members to introduce themselves.

17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

19 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

20 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were none.

21 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Councillor Paul May made a statement on the WECA Spatial Development Strategy, with regard to Whitchurch village [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix and on the Council's website*].

22 WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Councillor Tim Ball introduced the report and moved the recommendations. Councillor Sarah Warren seconded the recommendations. In so doing, the Councillors outlined the following key priorities;

- SDS must be good for the whole community;
- The SDS is a strategic plan and this should be evident in the nature of the document, which must be accessible to residents and the public and must be in a format that is understood. The SDS must avoid the criticism that Inspectors had of the now withdrawn Joint Strategic Partnership;
- The SDS should provide a robust strategic planning framework for the new Local Plan but should avoid getting into the details of issues which will be covered by Local Plans. Local Plans will be the vehicle for deciding where housing allocations go, and this is not the not role of the SDS;
- We understand that the SDS will need to take into account the Government's housing targets, but we expect the SDS to give as much weight to other critical priorities such as the Climate and Nature emergencies, protection of our environment as well as enabling the creation of jobs which are fit for the future and the delivery of affordable housing to meet the needs of B&NES' residents;
- Due to the significant scale of the challenge arising from the SDS for Unitary Authorities, we expect WECA to provide the necessary support for Unitary Authority Local Plans to ensure the right outcomes;
- B&NES will place significant emphasis on working with our local communities in the formulation of our Local Plan and we will take into what the residents say;
- Tackling the climate and ecological emergency is one of our core policies;

- The SDS must provide the necessary policies and a spatial strategy which facilitates these objectives, including sustainable construction, renewable energy generation and reducing reliance on private car travel;
- SDS must facilitate transformational change to enable major strides to be taken to move the sub-region to carbon neutrality & facilitate major cultural changes;
- The SDS should not only seek to ensure that new growth is sustainable, but provides the opportunity to address existing unsustainable patterns of development.
- The SDS must be underpinned by robust evidence which shows how this can be achieved, and which will also provide a firm basis for the preparation of Unitary Authority Local Plans.

RESOLVED (unanimously) to note the key priorities set out for the West of England Combined Authority draft Spatial Development Strategy (SDS).

The meeting ended at 6.43 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

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Paul May

Speech to special Cabinet meeting 31st March 2022

Chair,

I wish to record my full support for this special cabinet meeting to discuss an approach to the yet to be released SDS by WECA.

Previously my area of Whitchurch Village was inappropriately chosen as a strategic development area together with a major road from South Bristol through to the A4 at Keynsham.

Quite clearly this was to take housing needs of Bristol rather than Banes and this is an unsustainable location for further development as the village has already been increased by 50% due to the core strategy.

Despite local anger at these proposals Banes consulted at every stage and I find it appalling that now the strategic function has been transferred to WECA they still blatantly refuse to consult as they prepare their plans and I note the plans proposed before Christmas are still not available for comment today.

The South Bristol Wrong Road Group were set up as a direct result of Bristol failing to consult with their residents about the road.

JLTP4 retained the road as a transportation corridor which does not show a positive cost benefit for a vastly expensive construction through a vital area of green belt.

WECA refuse to provide any information re their alleged green belt review linked to the SDS.

I have been told that both Mayors want the road reinstated despite Banes and the Government stopping funding for "new" roads. Why not remove the route NOW!

Banes must demand that the SDS should only be progressed when JLTP5 is prepared. I argue that the cabinet should take a harder line than your recommendation unless the proposed addendum removes the corridor.

In addition strategic development in Whitchurch Village cannot be justified on the back of demand management.

Indeed as an ordinary councillor I still have no idea what is going to be in the SDS....Why? The 92000 houses quotes in the report has no context nor justification? What is proposed?

Banes must defend its own communities from inappropriate City of Bristol overspill development.

Our LPPU after approval protects Banes for 5 years re housing development so WECA must be responsible or we stop the SDS.

The horseworld developments had 40% affordable housing and it has attracted many families from Bristol so Banes need affordable housing for its own residents NOT on the edge of Bristol.

At every stage Banes have worked with me and my community and we have appreciated that so please take a hard line in protecting Whitchurch Village and Keynsham to keep the Banes separation from Bristol.

Its easy for planners sat in Bristol to draw lines on maps but the consequences need politicians to judge the consequences for communities. Please!