
LOCAL PLAN PANEL

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Thursday, 3 June 2021 from 7.00 pm - 7.12 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Monique Bonney, Derek Carnell, Alastair Gould (Chairman), James Hunt, Carole Jackson, Peter Marchington, Benjamin Martin, Paul Stephen, Eddie Thomas and Ghlin Whelan.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Billy Attaway, Philippa Davies, James Freeman and Karen Sinclair.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Julian Saunders.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (REMOTELY): Councillors Monique Bonney and Steve Davey, Julian Saunders and Mike Whiting.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Elliott Jayes and Richard Palmer.

42 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved:

(1) That Councillor Alastair Gould be elected Chairman for this meeting.

43 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 February 2021 (Minute Nos. 451 – 455) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as correct records.

44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

45 KENT DOWNS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Planning Policy Consultant introduced the report which set-out the review of the draft Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan. She explained that the Management Plans were required to be reviewed every five years, jointly with the 12 other authorities in Kent that had AONB area, and she highlighted that the Plan would not come into force until the other authorities had agreed it.

The Planning Policy Consultant pointed out to Members that there are no overall major changes to the Plan and there was an emphasis on climate change and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on landscape. She informed Members that the 12 authorities were looking to adopt the Management Plans in early July 2021.

A member asked the officer about the enforceability Swale Borough Council will have on the management plan, in response the officer explained that the plan will

become a material consideration when determining planning applications and following the management plan an action plan will be produced to take issues in the management plan and turn them into actions to deliver.

Other points made were:

- Welcomed the report;
- the report had been well written; and
- thought that the Plan had covered all points well.

Councillor Eddie Thomas moved all three recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Benjamin Martin.

Recommended:

- (1) That the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2021-2026 (Appendix I) be adopted;***
- (2) That adoption of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2021-2026 takes effect on a date to be confirmed by the Kent Downs AONB Unit;***
- (3) That the Head of Planning Services be given delegated powers to agree minor changes to the Management Plan that may be put forward prior to the Plan's formal adoption.***

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel