

**A MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-BOARD**

**WAS HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2009**

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (ex-officio); Councillors Ms Ballard (P), Burgess (P), Chegwyn (P), Edgar (P), Hicks, Hook (P), Langdon (P) and Wright (P).

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillor Hylands had been nominated to replace Councillor Hicks for this meeting.

**14. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of the Mayor and Councillor Hicks.

**15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**16. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Sub-Board held on 20 July 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**17. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

**18. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

**PART II**

**19. STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Development Services Manager which presented to Members a revised version of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment following public consultation.

Members were advised that the necessary infrastructure would need to be linked to any future housing provision above that which was currently allocated. The Council would continue to take developer contributions for relevant infrastructure. The draft Local Development Framework Core Strategy made clear the need for improved transport infrastructure a Western Relief Road.

Officers were congratulated on their report.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, as set out in Appendix A of the Development Services Manager's report, be approved as a supporting document to the Local Development Framework.

## **20. EMPLOYMENT LAND REVIEW**

Consideration was given to a report of the Development Services Manager which presented to Members a draft of the Employment Land Review for consultation.

Members were advised that this was a background evidence study which concluded that there was a need to safeguard the majority of existing employment sites in the Borough for employment purposes and maximise the use of land releases for employment.

Concerns were raised with regard to the disruption to service life by the proposed moving of the HMS Sultan operation to Wales. It was felt that HMS Sultan had provided outstanding training and employment opportunities for local people and it would be unfortunate to lose this, particularly with the current lack of skills in the area. Members felt that the site should remain as a working military base. The Council should be proactive and make use of partnership working.

Members considered that future released sites should be prioritised for employment uses rather than housing. It was felt that Government thinking would need to change and the future of the Haslar site would be significant.

The problems of attracting businesses to Gosport were discussed and the view was expressed that difficulties with access into the Borough and the lack of attractive premises were major obstacles. It was also felt that many people in the Borough had, to some extent, become used to the culture of being employed by the Ministry of Defence and consequently fewer people than normal were likely to set up their own businesses. The Ministry of Defence should bear some responsibility for this.

The need to work with Fareham Borough Council on the future of the Daedalus site was emphasised.

Officers were congratulated on their report.

RESOLVED: That the draft Employment Land Review be approved for the purposes of consultation.

## **21. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY: PREFERRED OPTIONS - FINAL REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Development Services Manager which presented to Members the final draft Local Development Framework Core Strategy: Preferred Options Document and to seek approval to publish it for consultation.

Members were advised that consultation with the community and a range of organisations was scheduled for the period 5 October to 13 November 2009. The consultation would take place through exhibitions in local libraries. Posters would be displayed on notice boards and there would be the opportunity to make views known on line.

Officers were congratulated on their report.

RESOLVED: That the draft Core Strategy: Preferred Options as set out in Appendix A of the report of the Development Services Manager be approved for public consultation.

## **22. CULTURAL STRATEGY**

This item was withdrawn.

The meeting ended at 6.40 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN**