

**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING****9 December 2014****3****7.00 pm – 10.40 pm****Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud****Minutes****Membership:**

Liz Ashton	P	Paul Hemming	P	Lesley Reeves	P
Martin Baxendale	P	Nick Hurst	P	Steve Robinson	P
Dorcas Binns	P	Julie Job	P	Mattie Ross	P
Tim Boxall	P	Haydn Jones	P	Roger Sanders	P
Chris Brine	P	John Jones	P	Emma Sims	P
Miranda Clifton	P	Stephen Lydon	P	Paul Smith	P
Nigel Cooper	P	John Marjoram	P	Ken Stephens	P
June Cordwell	P	Russell Miles	P	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy	P
Doina Cornell	P	Caroline Molloy	P	Brian Tipper	P
Gordon Craig	P	Stephen Moore	P	Geoff Wheeler	P
Karon Cross	A	Dave Mossman	P	Martin Whiteside	P
Paul Denney	P	Keith Pearson	P	Rhiannon Wigzell	P
David Drew	P	Elizabeth Peters	P	Tim Williams	P
Julie Douglass	P	Simon Pickering	P	Tom Williams	P
Jonathan Edmunds	P	Gary Powell	P	Penny Wride	P
Colin Fryer	P	Nigel Prenter	P	Debbie Young	P
Chas Fellows	P	Mark Rees	P	1 vacancy	

\*\* = Chair of Council    \* = Vice Chair of Council    P = Present    A = Absent

**Officers Present**

Chief Executive

 Legal Services Manager and  
 Monitoring Officer

Strategic Head (Development Services)

Planning Strategy Manager

Democratic Services and Election Officer

**Also Present**

Neil McDonald, Consultant

**CL.030****APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Karon Cross.

**CL.031**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor David Drew declared a personal interest because he was a member of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

**CL.032**      **STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

Councillor Steve Lydon, Chair of the cross-party meetings of the District Planning Review Body (also known as the Planning Review Panel (PRP)) introduced the above report which was based on recommendations following a series of meetings with Officers.

The Strategic Head (Development Services), Planning Strategy Manager and Consultant provided background and an overview of the report which addressed the concerns raised by the Inspector at stage 1 of the examination of the Local Plan. It was stressed that it was essential that the Council made a decision to progress the Local Plan. Members asked various questions and Officers clarified various points including:-

- The site west of Stonehouse did not appear within the submitted draft Local Plan but was identified as a possible site within the supporting documentation as a reasonable alternative and sustainable site.
- The methodology used to derive the housing needs of the District was explained.
- The Local Plan supports the production of Neighbourhood Plans to identify opportunities for additional development which would be a material consideration for future planning applications.
- The Highways Agency supports the development identified in the Local Plan, including west of Stonehouse, on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the traffic junction assessment. Scheme specific highway assessments and travel plans would be considered at the planning application stage.
- The Inspector expects the Council to identify sites that are demonstrably deliverable and developable and evidence would be required at the examination to show that developers will bring these forward.
- The Local Plan strategy is to allocate a small number of large sites where a mix of housing, affordable housing, employment, infrastructure and other benefits to the wider community would come forward. A larger number of small housing sites would not deliver these benefits for the community.
- The level of housing required could not be achieved by only using brownfield sites. Greenfield sites are required.
- Reference Appendix 3, page 21, it would be investigated whether the words “with a local connection” could be added to paragraph 1 to enable local people to benefit.
- Policy changes had been agreed in writing with a number of agencies such as the Environment Agency, English Heritage, Natural England and the Highways Agency.

During debate Members acknowledged that without a local plan they would be open to predatory developments and voted unanimously for the proposed decision 1 as set out in the report to proceed with the Local Plan.

At 8.50 pm the meeting adjourned and reconvened at 9.00 pm.

Members debated the proposed decision 2 (as per the report) and the majority agreed that the numbers outlined within the report would enable the Inspector to look at the draft Local Plan for the whole of the District in a positive manner. Several Members did not want the site west of Stonehouse included within the Local Plan.

Councillor Steve Lydon was commended on his leadership as Chair of PRP which had held regular meetings since July 2014 at which Officers and the Consultant had been questioned and had answered queries on every aspect of the emerging evidence base and possible changes to the submitted Local Plan. In summing up he concluded that the Inspector had rejected the Council's previous submission and difficult choices now had to be made.

On being put to the vote proposed decision 2 was carried. Councillor Ken Stephens voted against this proposal (having requested that his vote be recorded). He spoke against the inclusion of the site west of Stonehouse which was within his parish.

On the recommendation of the Chair and in accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Council unanimously RESOLVED to extend the duration of the meeting beyond the 3 hour limit.

Ward Members in Stonehouse all agreed that they had a difficult decision to make and expressed their differing views.

Members agreed they needed a local plan for the whole of the District which would enable them to have greater control of any future development.

On being put to the vote proposed decisions 3, 4, 5 and 6 were carried. Councillor Ken Stephens voted against decision 3 (having requested that his vote be recorded).

- RESOLVED**
- 1. To proceed with the Stroud District Local Plan;**
  - 2. To adopt Option 2 which provides for a new dwelling requirement of 11,200 by 2031;**
  - 3. To adopt Option D Alternative M5 Catchment Stonehouse Focus;**
  - 4. To reaffirm that the Local Plan will be subject of review within five years of adoption;**
  - 5. To approve the list of proposed changes to the submitted Stroud District Local Plan set out in Appendix 3 and recommend these to the Inspector as future main modifications to the Local Plan;**
  - 6. To request that the Inspector reconvenes the examination into the Local Plan.**

**CL.033      STROUD VALLEYS INITIATIVE**

The Leader outlined a strategic approach to tackling flood management and regeneration issues within the Stroud Valleys and confirmed that a strong business case had yet to be made for this initiative to go ahead. If the initiative was viable then Town, Parish and Ward Members, County Councillors and other agencies would be invited to participate.

- RESOLVED**
- 1. To agree the concept of a Stroud Valleys Initiative,**
  - 2. To consider the financial planning issues during the budget setting process in January, and**
  - 3. The Strategy and Resources Committee to take responsibility for future decision-making in respect of the project delivery.**

The meeting closed at 10.40 pm.

Chair of Council