

Housing & Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Monday, 14th January, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Allison Trainer (Chairman), Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Jean O'Donnell (vice Cllr Baker, Cllr Julia Roberts and Cllr William Woodhead

Officers: Mike Batty, Roger Tait, (DNS), Satnam Singh (PPSU), Paul Hutchinson (RES), Peter Mennear, Michael Henderson (LD)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Tina Large, Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Liz Nesbitt.

HCS 35/07 Minutes of the meeting dated 13th December 2007 for approval.

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2007.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2007 be forwarded to Council for consideration.

HCS 36/07 Review of Traveller Transit Site Selection

Members were reminded that, at its meeting held on 20th December 2007, it had identified Bowesfield Pumping Station as its preferred site for a Travellers' Transit Site. The Committee had also identified a site beside the former Incinerator, adjacent to Newport Bridge, as a possible 'back up' option and had requested that officers assess its suitability.

It was explained that an assessment of the land beside the Incinerator site had been undertaken and the findings were presented for Members consideration. It was noted that: -

- The Council did not own the site.
- The site was within Flood Zone 3 and faced a high probability of flooding.

In view of the above, and other reasons, it was agreed that this site would not be suitable as a 'back up' to the preferred option, and it was therefore discounted.

The Committee agreed to identify a more suitable 'back up' site and, to assist in this, was provided with relevant plans and assessments.

Members considered the information provided and, following discussions, identified a site.

The Committee requested that its draft report, to Cabinet, be prepared on the basis of recommending the Bowesfield Pumping Station as the preferred option, together with the identified back up option.

Members felt that the sites identified were the most appropriate, given the suitability of sites available in the Borough and the Committee's remit for this review.

It was noted that Officers would undertake consultation on the sites.

Members were reminded that the Committee's Project Plan included a scheduled meeting on 23rd January 2008 intended to review consultation responses on a shortlist of sites. The Committee considered that this meeting was unlikely to be necessary as only one site, and a back up, was being proposed.

The Committee anticipated that it would next meet on 31st January 2008, to consider a draft report, which would be submitted to Cabinet in February.

CONCLUDED that the 'back up' site identified by the Committee go forward for consultation, together with the preferred option.