

North Essex Garden Communities - Overview and Scrutiny Considerations

3 messages

Ewan Green <[redacted]> Fri, Jul 26, 2019 at 11:59 AM
To: "Cllr. Mark Stephenson" <[redacted]>, "Cllr. Terry Allen" <[redacted]>,
"Cllr. Mick Barry" <[redacted]>, "Cllr. Christopher Griffiths" <[redacted]>, "Cllr.
Pam Morrison" <[redacted]>, "Cllr. Gary Scott" <[redacted]>, "Cllr. Nicholas
Turner" <[redacted]>, "Cllr. Jeff Bray, Vice-Chairman of the Council" <[redacted]>,
"Cllr. James Codling" <[redacted]>
Cc: Ian Davidson <[redacted]>, Martyn Knappett <[redacted]>, Keith Simmons
<[redacted]>

Dear Member,

I apologise for any confusion caused in relation to North Essex Garden Communities (NEGC) and the Committee's work plan.

The NEGC 2019-2020 Business Plan has not as yet been received by the Council and does not form part of the Agenda for Committee on 5 August 2019. There is nothing untoward in this; rather the future of the NEGC programme is inextricably linked to the ongoing Local Plan Section One process and this has delayed completion of the Business Plan and subsequent consideration by the Council. It is likely that the NEGC 2019-2020 Business Plan will be considered by Cabinet in September 2019.

The Agenda for 5 August 2019 does however include a report asking Members to consider future arrangements for scrutiny of NEGC matters. This could be taken forward jointly by the Resources and Services and Community Leadership Committees which would be an efficient way to ensure effective scrutiny of NEGC for both Members and Officers.

At this stage I suggest that NEGC 2018-19 Business Plan, as approved by Cabinet, be subject of a report for scrutiny in late August / early September 2019. Thereafter, and notwithstanding views from Committee, I also suggest that future matters for consideration would include:

- Proposals for a Development Corporation and / or alternative delivery arrangements
- Business Plan 2019-20 (performance against objectives including budget)
- Medium to Long Term Finance Options

Finally I would like to assure you that, in my role as lead officer, ongoing scrutiny of the NEGC programme is both essential and welcomed. I therefore look forward to future meetings and discussions on this with Members.

Regards,

Ewan

Ewan Green

Corporate Director

(Planning & Regeneration Services)

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Chris Griffiths <[redacted]>

To: Ewan Green <[redacted]>

Sun, Jul 28, 2019 at 11:21 PM

Hi Ewan,

Many thanks for your email. I note from your e-mail the comments that the North East Essex Garden Communities business plan has not been received by the council. However my view is that since 30th January 2017 when the NEGC LTD was formally established, the business plan would be purely for noting, as it is not a council document, but business plan of a limited company, whose four directors have already outlined the direction of travel, for something that is to all in tense and purposes, an independent company of which we as a council, in effect have a quarter of the shares.

It is still my view, that the shareholder to the board, should be an appointed portfolio holder, who reports both to cabinet and the council, but in the event of any votes, declares an interest and withdraws from the meeting. It is still my view, that the councils commitment to funding the delivery vehicle to deliver the garden city communities, should be within the framework of a policy document, which outlines both the councils expectations, and has targets

and priorities, contained with the policy framework, which allow those engaged within the scrutiny process, to be able to form a considered opinion regarding both affordability and value for money  
It is also my view, that the establishment or the exploration of the potential to set up a locally led development corporation, should also be seated within the framework of a policy document, which outlines both the councils expectations, targets and priorities, and that within the context of the establishment or exploration of any delivery corporation, a scoping document should be put before council, which outlines the councils financial responsibilities, liabilities and potential ongoing financial costs, associated with the development corporations, and any subsequent companies, which may evolve, after the main developments and constructions have ceased.  
Policy statements regarding support from the council to long term public sector funding in relation to enabling delivery should also be published along with a breakdown of the councils contributions for providing the finances to provide , project management, planning, programming and communications, and evolving work on operational readiness, set within a policy framework, which provides both targets and measurable milestones, and an indicator to provide scrutiny with the financial instruments to gauge if both the project and investment is achieving value for money.should also be produced  
Publication of stewardship arrangements for the long term maintenance of public amenities need to be set within a framework and policy document, and set along side a progressing work on a financial model, which should also include initiating discussions with government, regarding long term funding, soft financial testing and testing financial and scheme funding parameters.  
Consideration to preparing individual concept frameworks for each garden city community that sets out the vision and policies for each garden city community and outlines the councils financial responsibility to each community.

Kind regards

Chris

[Quoted text hidden]

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Chris Griffiths <[redacted]> Sun, Jul 28, 2019 at 11:30 PM  
To: "Cllr. Mark Stephenson" <[redacted]>, "Cllr. Neil Stock, Leader of the Council" <[redacted]>, Ewan Green <[redacted]>

Hi Chaps,

This is something that I sent off to Ewan regarding the scrutiny process. Most of it is probably in policy in different sections of various framework and policy documents, but it would be good if it could all be brought together in one section under the heading garden city communities,

Regards

Chris

[Quoted text hidden]

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. This is essential for ensuring the integrity of the financial statements and for providing a clear audit trail. The records should be kept in a secure and accessible location, and should be updated regularly.

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6. The sixth part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. This is essential for ensuring the integrity of the financial statements and for providing a clear audit trail. The records should be kept in a secure and accessible location, and should be updated regularly.

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8. The eighth part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. This is essential for ensuring the integrity of the financial statements and for providing a clear audit trail. The records should be kept in a secure and accessible location, and should be updated regularly.

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