

Committee: Ordinary Council	Date: 22 January 2020
Subject: Brentwood Local Development Plan: Addendum of Focussed Changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Phil Drane, Director of Strategic Planning	Public
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Summary

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to produce a Local Plan for their area. Brentwood Borough Council is producing a new Local Development Plan and has reached Publication stage (Regulation 19). To reach this stage consultation has taken place on a Pre-Submission Local Plan (February 2019) and an Addendum of Focussed Changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan (October 2019).

Consideration of representations received in response to the Pre-Submission Local Plan, specifically concerns regarding new homes proposed in Blackmore and Shenfield, resulted in further public consultation on focussed changes. Consultation on the Addendum of Focussed Changes concluded in November 2019. Responses to this consultation are summarised in Appendix A.

The Council has approved delegated authority for the Director of Strategic Planning, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, to finalise and submit the Pre-Submission Local Plan (and supporting documents) with non-material amendments if required. For the Addendum of Focussed Changes to be submitted alongside the Pre-Submission Local Plan, approval is required from the Council.

The next stage of the plan-making process is Submission of the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State (Regulation 22), to take place in January 2020.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- R1. Approve that the Addendum of Focussed Changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the Brentwood Local Plan Examination-in-Public process.**

Main Report

Introduction and Background

1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to produce a Local Plan for their area (Chapter 3 “plan-making”). Brentwood Borough Council is producing a new Local Development Plan (or ‘Local Plan’) and has undertaken various stages of public consultation as part of the plan-making process. The Local Plan sets out the long-term vision for how and where the Borough will develop over the next 15 years to meet local needs in line with our unique local character, our “Borough of Villages”.
2. The Pre-Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) was approved by Extraordinary Council on 8 November 2018 (Item No. 181) and published for consultation in February 2019. Following consultation many representations were processed and considered.
3. As part of the consideration of these representations, the Council’s Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee resolved to consider amendments to the Local Plan in advance of submission, specifically regarding five proposed site allocations (Item No. 168, 11 September 2019) as set out in (a) to (e) below and to require multiple access points to the combined sites R18 and R19 in relation to (b).

An Addendum of Focussed Changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan was published for consultation in October 2019 and included the following focussed changes:

- a. Policy R18 (Land off Crescent Drive, Shenfield): Reduction from “around 55” to “around 35 homes”;
 - b. Policy R19 (Land at Priests Lane, Shenfield): Reduction from “around 75” to “around 45 homes”;
 - c. Policy R25 (Land north of Woollard Way, Blackmore): Reduction from “around 40” to “around 30 homes”;
 - d. Policy R26 (Land north of Orchard Piece, Blackmore): Reduction from “around 30” to “around 20 homes”; and
 - e. Policy R01 (I) (Dunton Hills Garden Village Strategic Allocation): Increase from “a minimum of 2,700” to “a minimum of 2,770 homes in the plan period”.
4. These focussed changes reduce the indicative number of new homes planned for the above sites in Blackmore and Shenfield by 70 homes and replace that number by increasing the minimum number of new homes to be delivered at Dunton Hills Garden Village over the Local Plan period to 2033. Therefore, there is no overall loss of new homes planned and the overall housing target remains in line with the requirement to meet local needs.

5. In total there were 610 respondents to the consultation who made 2,828 comments (or representations). A breakdown of the comments is provided below in Table 1. A summary of the comments is provided in Appendix A.

Table 1: Addendum of Focussed Changes consultation data

Section / Policy	Respondents	Representations	Support	Object
Sustainability Appraisal	28	45	16	29
Policy R01 (I): Dunton Hills Garden Village Strategic Allocation	525	545	27	518
Policy R18: Land off Crescent Drive, Shenfield	513	528	24	504
Policy R19: Land at Priests Lane, Shenfield	531	544	21	523
Policy R25: Land North of Woollard Way, Blackmore	544	583	8	575
Policy R26: Land North of Orchard Piece, Blackmore	547	583	11	572
<i>Addendum of Focussed Changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan (total)</i>	<i>610</i>	<i>2,828</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>2,721</i>

6. In preparation for the Examination-in-Public, a Programme Officer has been appointed as required before submission of the Local Plan. The Programme Officer undertakes the administration of all aspects of the examination under the Inspector's direction, and all communications outside the hearing sessions between the Inspector, the local planning authority and other parties involved in the examination. The Programme Officer also ensures that all the documentation for the examination is received, recorded and placed on the Council's examination webpage.

Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

7. In progressing the plan-making process, the Council is currently at Publication stage (Regulation 19) and post public consultation. Once public consultation has concluded and representations have been considered, the Council is required to submit the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination-in-Public on behalf of the Secretary of State (Regulation 22). The recommendation of this report enables the Council to swiftly meet the requirement to submit the Local Plan, along with the Addendum of Focussed Changes, in line with the approved Local Development Scheme timetable (submission by the end of January 2020).
8. If the recommendation is not approved, the Pre-Submission Local Plan as published in February 2019 without amendments contained in the Addendum of Focussed Changes, can be submitted for examination. However, this would not take into consideration the representations made regarding four of the

proposed site allocations that resulted in the majority of concerns (sites in Blackmore and Shenfield).

9. The Council could resolve to make further amendments to the Pre-Submission Local Plan. Subject to whether amendments are considered to be material, it is likely that further public consultation will be required as has taken place through the Addendum of Focussed Changes. This would delay Submission of the Plan. Changes may require further engagement with statutory consultees or Duty to Cooperate bodies, following which, further changes may be necessary to the submission documents to take legal considerations into account. This would incur additional costs to the Council. This would also require further amendment of the Local Development Scheme, which the Government is using to monitor the Council's progress on the Local Plan, increasing the risk of intervention.

Reasons for Recommendation

10. Approval to submit the Pre-Submission Local Plan was resolved by Extraordinary Council on 8 November 2018 (Item No. 181). This was approved subject to non-material amendments between Publication stage (Regulation 19) through to Submission (Regulation 22) and Examination, with delegated authority for the Director of Strategic Planning in consultation with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. Since then, the Council has also resolved to publish amendments to the Pre-Submission Local Plan through the Addendum of Focussed Changes document (Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee, 11 September 2019, Item No. 168).
11. The Addendum of Focussed Changes document was subject to public consultation in order that the amendments could be treated as part of the submitted plan by the Inspector, as specified in Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph 054, Reference ID 61-054-20190315, Revision Date 15/03/19). The recommendation would enable the Addendum to be submitted alongside the Pre-Submission Local Plan.

Consultation

12. Various stages of the plan-making process have been subject to public consultation in line with statutory requirements and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. The Pre-Submission Local Plan was published for consultation between February and March 2019. The Addendum of Focussed Changes was published for consultation between November and December 2019. Representations made in response to these documents have been published on the Council's website. Representations and the Council's consideration of the issues raised will be part of Local Plan submission materials to be considered by a Planning Inspector. A summary of

representations made in response to the Addendum of Focussed Changes document is set out in Appendix A.

References to Corporate Plan

13. The Local Development Plan is a key priority in the Council's 'Vision for Brentwood' Corporate Plan 2016-2019. These priorities continue in the new draft Corporate Plan 2020-2025. The Local Plan is an important delivery vehicle for several priorities in both the current and emerging Corporate Plan, informed by individual Council strategies.

Implications

Financial Implications

Name/Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Director of Corporate Resources
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14. The cost of submitting the Local Plan and running the Examination-in-Public has been accounted for within the planning policy service budget of the medium-term financial plan. In addition to this, earmarked reserves of received specific Grants have been utilised to aid and ensure the Plan is delivered within the specified timeframes set out in the Council's Local Development Scheme.

Legal Implications

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15. The Local Plan has been prepared in accordance with the primary planning acts, namely the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and other supporting legislation. It has been informed by the NPPF and other relevant national planning policy. Detailed regulations in relation to plan-making are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). It is a requirement of the Acts and the associated Regulations for the Local Plan to be prepared in accordance with the timetable established in the statutory Local Development Scheme, and subject to an examination into its soundness.

Economic Implications

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16. The Local Plan sets out a spatial strategy for how economic growth needs will be met over the next 15-years, including the delivery of new jobs and homes. It is important that the plan is in place to help enable economic growth and achieve the aims of the Council's draft Corporate Strategy 2020-2025.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

17. The Local Plan is accompanied by several supporting documents, part of the wider evidence base that has informed it. These include assessments of issues that could have implications for various Council services and responsibilities. Where relevant the following documents have been updated in light of the Addendum of Focussed Changes and remain live documents that will be updated regularly and through the Examination-in-Public post submission of the Plan. These documents form part of the submission materials for the Local Plan and are published on the Council's website via

www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan:

- a. Sustainability Appraisal (SA): Systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of a Local Plan to promote sustainable development, by assessing proposals against reasonable alternatives to help achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. This includes a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues.
- b. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA): Responds to the requirement for policies, plans or projects with potential to affect designated European sites to undergo assessment under the European Habitats Directive.
- c. Health Impact Assessment (HIA): Undertaken to identify the potential health consequences of a proposal on a specific population and/or community, maximise the positive health benefits, and minimise potential adverse effects on health and inequalities. The HIA demonstrates at a local level the impacts that development can have on health and wellbeing, and where there are opportunities to enhance health gains and mitigate against negative impacts. The HIA has informed the Local Plan and resulted in the process being further embedded in the planning decision-making process.
- d. Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA): Process designed to ensure that a policy, project or scheme does not discriminate against any disadvantaged or vulnerable people. Local Plan policies have been assessed accordingly.
- e. Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP): Sets out the capacity and opportunities for key infrastructure such as schools, healthcare and transport to inform the growth required through the plan-making process.

This work includes approximate costs of specific infrastructure, funding requirements, opportunities and/or gaps.

18. In addition, technical studies that have informed the Plan are published on the Council's website and can be accessed via <http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/index.php?cid=966> (Planning and Building Control / Local Development Plan / Evidence Base).

Background Papers

- Brentwood Pre-Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19, February 2019)
- Previous stages of the Local Plan, including consultation documents and supporting work, can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/index.php?cid=1650> (Planning and Building Control / Local Development Plan / Work So Far).
- Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations, The Planning Inspectorate, June 2019 (5th Edition) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/examining-local-plans-procedural-practice>

Appendices to this report

- Appendix A: Summary of Representations received in response to the Addendum of Focussed Changes Consultation (October – November 2019)
- Appendix B: Addendum of Focussed Changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan (October 2019)