

Committee: Audit and Scrutiny Committee	Date: 26 January 2021
Subject: Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Phil Drane, Corporate Director of Planning and Economy	Public
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Summary

The Local Development Plan (LDP) Member Working Group is an established engagement between Officers and Councillors focussed on delivery of the Council's Local Plan and related work. Its purpose was approved by Policy, Projects and Resources Committee in September 2017.

The work of the working group is monitored by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee as part of the committee's work programme. This report provides an update on the most recent meetings of the working group.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

R1. Note the update provided in this report and the appendices enclosed.

Main Report

Introduction and Background

1. The Local Development Plan (LDP) Member Working Group is an established engagement between Officers and Councillors that has taken place over several years alongside preparation of the Council's Local Plan. It has also considered related work to the Local Plan. The purpose of the working group is to consider the Local Plan and associated documents before they are considered by the Council at a relevant meeting or committee. This purpose was approved by the

Council in September 2017 (Item 114, Policy, Projects and Resources Committee, 19 September 2017).

2. Audit and Scrutiny Committee monitors the work of the LDP Member Working Group as part of its work programme. An update is provided in this report on the activities of the working group.

Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

3. Audit and Scrutiny Committee was last provided with a LDP Member Working Group update on 24 November 2020 (Item 587). Since then, the working group has met on 5 January 2021 (see Appendix A for draft meeting notes, which have not yet been approved by the group). The group has focussed on the Local Plan examination currently taking place.
4. Working group meetings are set to take place bi-monthly with the next scheduled for 9 March 2021.

Reasons for Recommendation

5. As part of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee work programme, an update on the work of the LDP Member Working Group is provided.

Consultation

6. The Local Plan and associated documents are subject to public consultation.

References to Corporate Plan

7. The Local Plan is a key vehicle for the delivery of many objectives set out within the Council's Corporate Strategy. This includes growing our economy, protecting our environment, developing our communities, and improving housing.

Implications

Financial Implications

Name/Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

Tel/Email: 01277 312500/jacqueline.vanmellaerts@brentwood.gov.uk

8. There are no direct financial implications. There are appropriate budgets included within the Medium term financial strategy to resource the Local Plan.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Amanda Julian, Corporate Director of Law and Governance

Tel & Email: 01277 312500/amanda.julian@brentwood.gov.uk

9. The procedures which the Council is required to follow when producing a Local Plan derive from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012.
10. The legislation states that a local planning authority must only submit a plan for examination which it considers to be sound. This is defined by the National Planning Policy Framework as being:
 - a) **Positively Prepared:** based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements;
 - b) **Justified:** the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;
 - c) **Effective:** deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and
 - d) **Consistent with national policy:** enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.
11. For the draft Local Plan to pass the tests of soundness, in particular the ‘justified’ and ‘effective’ tests, it is necessary for it to be based on an adequate, up to date and relevant evidence base. The Council also has a legal duty to comply with the Statement of Community Involvement in preparing the Plan. (S19(3) 2004 Act).
12. In addition, the Council also has a legal “duty to Cooperate” in preparing the Plan. (S33A 2004 Act).

Economic Implications

Name/Title: Phil Drane, Corporate Director of Planning and Economy

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13. The Local Development Plan is a key vehicle for the delivery of economic growth, in line with the Council’s objectives to grow the economy. It is important that the delivery of the Plan is scrutinised through elected representation.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Name/Title: Kim Anderson, Partnerships, Leisure & Funding Manager

Tel/Email: 01277 312634/kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

14. The Local Development Plan considers equality and diversity issues.

Health & Wellbeing Implications

Name/Title: Kimberley White, Corporate Health & Wellbeing Officer

Tel/Email: 01277 312500/kimberley.white@brentwood.gov.uk

15. The Local Development Plan includes provisions to maintain and improve health and wellbeing in the borough.

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

16. Delivery of the Local Development Plan is monitored through the Council's strategic risk register.
17. The Local Development Plan is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal.

Background Papers

- Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update, Item 587, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 24 November 2020
- Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update, Item 480, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 28 July 2020
- Corporate Projects Report, Item 114, Policy, Projects and Resources Committee, 19 September 2017

Appendices to this report

- Appendix A: Local Development Plan Member Working Group Draft Notes and Actions, 5 January 2021