



Notes

Meeting: Local Development Plan Members Working Group
Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams
Date: Tuesday 5 January 2021
Time: 18:00-19:15

Members Present: Cllr Bridge, Cllr Keeble, Cllr McCheyne, Cllr Mynott, Cllr Naylor, Cllr Sanders

Officers Present: Phil Drane (PD), Corporate Director of Planning and Economy
Jonathan Quilter (JQ), Strategic Planning Manager

Apologies: Cllr Jon Cloke, Cllr Morrissey

1. Notes from last meeting

- a) Notes from last meeting (03/11/2020) were circulated for review. No comments raised.

2. Examination Update

- a) Hearing sessions began on 1 December 2020, week one covering that week (1-4 December) and Friday 11 December. Matters discussed included: Legal and procedural requirements (i.e. Duty to Cooperate); spatial strategy; housing needs (i.e. requirement and affordable housing); employment needs; Green Belt; and the first set of questions on Dunton Hills Garden Village (generally dealing with strategic issues with more detailed issues following into week three).
- b) Hearing sessions continue into weeks two, three and four in February 2021. This includes a revised programme to now add a week four, to take place 2-5, 9-12, and 23-25 February). Hearing statements for matters covered in these weeks were published from 15 December 2020 and are available to view on the Council's website.
- c) Matters in February include: general questions on site allocations as well as grouping sites together by neighbourhood; housing provision; general infrastructure; Gypsies and Travellers; employment and retail sites; environment; future proofing; natural and historic environment; design and place-making; transport infrastructure; and the remainder of Dunton Hills Garden Village questions. In addition, towards the end of the matters we will consider monitoring of the policies and necessary modifications. This will inform next stages through 2021.



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- d) There were several notes requested by the Inspectors' following the week one sessions. These are to provide further clarity on specific issues and will be published by 15 January 2021.
- e) A key issue requiring further information is the status of the Transport Assessment and how it informs the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). Work is continuing with Essex County Council and Highways England to answer outstanding questions and publish revised work by 15 January and issue a revised IDP before the hearing sessions in February. This work is to identify the impacts of development on the highways network in particular, with mitigation required (i.e. costs and how this is provided by development contributions etc). Regular meetings have been set up to push this work forward through January.
- f) Related to this issue is investment in rail infrastructure, such as that proposed at West Horndon station linked to the wider strategy for sustainable growth in the area. We are discussing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with c2c, Network Rail and Essex County Council, which includes the phasing of necessary improvements to take account of what is needed now from Brentwood Borough growth and what may be needed in future subject to Thurrock Council's strategy, which is yet to be decided. Proposals are published in the South Brentwood Growth Corridor Sustainable Transport Vision work and are to be updated through the MoU.
- g) Cllr Naylor asked about the role of participants at the hearing sessions given it seemed several resident groups were not listed as participants under certain matters, for instance. JQ explained that to be invited participants need to have made representations to the Regulation 19 consultations that took place in 2019. The sessions are broadcast online for all to view, both live and archived (via the Council's YouTube site and examination webpage).
- h) Cllr Mynott clarified that he has requested to speak as a participant, which is in a personal capacity and will not reflect criticism of officers but continue to raise points that have been made previously about specific sites and the strategy.
- i) Cllr Keeble asked about infrastructure needs in Blackmore and whether there was an update (such as health, schools, and wastewater). PD and JQ responded, that the issues could be discussed at relevant sessions in February but also that engagement with relevant infrastructure providers who advise on whether investment in services/facilities are required from the amount of development proposed. The amount of development proposed is unlikely to require investment in such services/facilities, there has been no requirement advised by those providers. Cllr Keeble advised that there is capacity at the local GP surgery, but investment needed by the NHS to provide for more doctors etc.
- j) Cllr McCheyne advised that there was a doctors' forum covering Blackmore and that he would advise Cllr Keeble of the next date in order to get involved.
- k) Cllr McCheyne asked about the Local Plan review process. PD explained that this has been discussed at the hearing session due to the LDP not providing for a 15-year period at adoption. It will be important to consider the longer-term needs of the



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borough through a process of reviewing the LDP (if adopted) within the next five years. JQ advised that we need to be mindful of planning reforms introduced by Government in future and so consider this as part of the review process alongside changing needs.

- l) Cllr Mynott asked about COVID-19 lockdown implications and whether this may affect the hearing sessions. JQ advised that the revised programme to be issued anticipates that we will be able to continue as planned, particularly given the remote nature of proceedings which will still be possible. However, we will need to be mindful of certain limitations on people and organisations when considering issues such as home-schooling and childcare, among other things. Participants would be notified if there were changes to the programme as a result.

3. AOB

- a) No matters raised.
- b) Next meeting scheduled for 9 March 2021.