



Notes

Meeting: Local Development Plan Member Working Group
Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams
Date: Wednesday 15 September 2021
Time: 18:00-18:45

Members Present: Cllr Thomas Bridge, Cllr Jon Cloke (Chair), Cllr Philip Mynott, Cllr Dominic Naylor, Cllr Olivia Sanders

Officers Present: Phil Drane (PD), Corporate Director – Planning and Economy
Jonathan Quilter (JQ), Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning
Andrea Pearson (AP), Senior Policy Planner

Apologies: Cllr T Barret

1. Notes from last meeting

- a) Notes from the last meeting (14/07/2021) were circulated for review.
- b) No comments received.

2. Local Plan Examination Update and Main Modifications Consultation

- a) Overview of Local Plan examination hearings provided by JQ. This included week six of hearings held in late July and discussion about strategic highways mitigation.
- b) Outcomes from the hearing sessions include a list of modifications required to make the plan sound, such as the need for an immediate partial review of the plan (to meet longer-term housing need and highways impacts, among other things), and amendments to the housing numbers on a selection of site allocations. These are Main Modifications and are required in order to make the plan sound (i.e. the plan cannot be found sound without the main modifications).
- c) Additional Modifications are in those addition to the main modifications, these are minor in nature and include factual updates or typo corrections etc. They do not materially affect the plan.
- d) Six-week period for modifications consultation will begin later this month and end in early November. After that responses will be collated and given to the inspectors for consideration. The inspectors will then provide their conclusion on soundness via a letter, hopefully by the end of the year.
- e) If soundness is confirmed, the plan would be brought to Council for decision on adoption.



Notes

- f) Cllr Bridge asked what would happen if the Council were to decide not to adopt the plan. JQ explained that the inspectors will only allow the Council to adopt a plan that is sound. Therefore, if the plan was not adopted then the Council would need to start over again, resulting in significant delay and cost implications. Without a plan there would be no allocations to meet housing needs (among other things), and limited up to date policies (National Planning Policy Framework complaint). This would increase the risk of Government intervention.
- g) Cllr Mynott asked about the return to original housing provision numbers for sites in Blackmore. JQ advised that the inspectors discarded the addendum of focussed changes made by the Council according to the density ratios discussed through examination and the need to make effective use of Green Belt land.
- h) Cllr Mynott asked about notifications for the modification consultation and the need for advanced warning. JQ advised that the examination process is ongoing and so the Programme Officer will be sending notifications and managing the process, with support from the Planning Policy Team. Notifications will go out as soon as possible at the beginning of the consultation.
- i) Discussion about ways to make the process as simple as possible given its technical nature. All changes will be listed in the schedule of modifications document that will be published as part of the consultation.
- j) Discussion about the options available to the inspectors following modification consultation. JQ confirmed that the inspectors will advise on the modifications that have to be made in order that the plan can be found sound. Those proposed modifications that were made through the examination hearing sessions (late 2020 and early 2021) can be ignored, the main modifications (schedule of modifications) to the submitted plan is what will be required by the inspectors.
- k) JQ confirmed that the schedule of modifications will be published when consultation begins. This has been sent via the Programme Officer to the inspectors to confirm details. This will reflect the outcomes of the public hearing sessions.
- l) An all-member briefing session is scheduled for Wednesday 22 September where officers will provide an overview of the modifications, consultation process and next steps.

3. Dunton Hills Garden Village Planning Application (21/01525/OUT)

- a) PD advised that an outline planning application had been received, which was validated (and published) this week. Timeframes for determination consider anticipated adoption of the LDP (early 2022) and pre-election and local election periods (April – May 2022), meaning determination would be after this time. This is agreed through Planning Performance Agreement. This is a positive step indicating confidence of delivery and a key milestone reached.



Notes

- b) Members requested a briefing from the applicant when appropriate, which PD will action.

4. AOB

- a) None

DRAFT