Committee: Audit and Scrutiny Committee	**Date:** 12 January 2022
Subject: Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update	**Wards Affected:** All
Report of: Phil Drane, Corporate Director (Planning & 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.

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.

3. In addition to the working group, a separate Dunton Hills Garden Village Project Delivery Board regularly meets to provide oversight as the scheme progresses. Dunton Hills Garden Village is a key part of the Local Plan strategy for growth and so there is inevitably some cross-over between the issues discussed by the

project board and LDP Member Working Group. The project board includes representation from lead members of Brentwood Borough Council and Essex County Council, CEG as master-developer and majority land promoter, West Horndon Parish Council, and Homes England (representing the Government / Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the delivery of garden communities). The purpose and membership of the project board was approved by the Council in March 2019 (Item 383, Policy, Projects and Resources Committee, 19 March 2019). To support the project board as part of project governance, a technical steering group meets regularly.

Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

4. Audit and Scrutiny Committee was last provided with a LDP Member Working Group update on 28 September 2021 (Item 131). Since then, the working group has met on 30 November 2021 (see Appendix A for draft meeting notes that have not yet been approved by the group). Discussion focussed on the Main Modifications consultation, recently completed as a necessary stage of the Local Plan examination.

5. The Dunton Hills Garden Village Steering Group most recently met on 14 December 2021 (see Appendix B for draft meeting notes). The group discussed progress towards achieving the two main objectives of the project: allocation (of the site through adoption of the Local Plan and Dunton Hills specific policies, i.e. plan-making); and application (of which an outline planning application was submitted by CEG in summer 2021 with more to come, i.e. decision-making). The project board has not met in the last period.

Consultation

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

References to Corporate Strategy

7. The Local Plan is a key vehicle for the delivery of many objectives set out within the Council's Corporate Strategy "Brentwood 2025". This includes growing our economy, protecting our environment, developing our communities, and improving housing.

Implications

Financial Implications

Name/Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Corporate Director (Finance & Resources) and S151 Officer
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 (Law and Governance) and Monitoring Officer
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 (Planning & Economy)
Tel/Email: 01277 312500/philip.drane@brentwood.gov.uk

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, Corporate Manager (Communities, Leisure & Health)
Tel/Email: 01277 312634/kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

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

Health & Wellbeing Implications
Name/Title: Jo Cory, Corporate Health & Wellbeing Officer
Tel/Email: 01277 312500/jo.cory@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 131, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 28 September 2021
- Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update, Item 76, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 6 July 2021
- Dunton Hills Garden Village Project Governance, Item 383, Policy, Projects and Resources Committee, 19 March 2019
- 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, 30 November 2021

- Appendix B: Dunton Hills Garden Village Steering Group Draft Notes and Actions, 14 December 2021