



Notes

Meeting: Local Development Plan Member Working Group (4)
Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams
Date: Wednesday 9 February 2022
Time: 18:00-18:50

Members Present: Cllr Thomas Bridge (Chair), Cllr Dominic Naylor

Officers Present: Jonathan Quilter (JQ), Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning
Andrea Pearson (AP), Senior Policy Planner
Thom Hoang (TH), Senior Policy Planner

Apologies: Cllr Tim Barret, Cllr Jon Cloke, Cllr Philip Mynott, Cllr Olivia Sanders

1. Notes from last meeting

- a) Notes from the last meeting (30/11/2021) were circulated for review.
- b) Cllr Bridge asked a question regarding paragraph 2h of the notes and the issue of bringing the plan to a meeting of Extraordinary Council. This requires clarification going forward as there is now a different approach being proposed regarding Ordinary Council.

2. Local Plan Examination Update

- a) JQ updated on the position of the Local Plan, the Inspectors Report is expected shortly. The team is working with Democratic Services on when the plan can be brought to the Council, currently looking at whether it can be added to the Ordinary Council agenda on 16 March 2022.
- b) Cllr Bridge set out a preference for 16 March and wanted to ensure that the papers would be published beforehand in line with requirements.
- c) JQ explained that discussion with the Programme Officer indicated the draft Inspectors Report was expected for fact checking by Monday 21 February. Timings on the receipt of the report may impact publication of papers. The team is working on the committee report and supporting documents as much as possible in advance.
- d) Cllr Bridge asked what would happen if there were a mistake in the plan as published with the committee report compared to the main modifications version.



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- e) JQ advised that the Council should be in a position to amend any minor errors via 'additional modifications' if they do not amount to a main modification. Those additional modifications would need to be clearly recorded. However, the Council cannot make further amendments.
- f) JQ advised that subject to the emerging plan being adopted, it will carry full weight from that point on for decision-making. Legislation requires the Council to notify members of the public and there would be a six-week period for legal any challenge based on procedural errors. However, the Plan still carries full weight if and until any legal challenge is resolved. The Council is also required to notify the Secretary of State.
- g) Cllr Bridge asked for those applications in between the transition period, whether the decision notice would be based on the new plan.
- h) JQ suggested that advice may need to be sought on how long any transition period should be. Case officers and applicants recognise the need to start considering the emerging plan alongside the 2005 plan and the weights attached to them.
- i) Discussion about the need for an all member briefing ahead of a full council meeting. There needs to be very clear guidance on the process regarding any proposals for amendments and these would not permitted according to soundness.
- j) JQ advised that a key modification is the need for an immediate review of the plan.
- k) Cllr Naylor asked if the plan review would mean that the Council needs to find and plan for a higher number of new homes.
- l) JQ advised that through the examination process, the original standard housing need calculation was updated, and the delivery trajectory of large sites slipped because of the examination passage of time. That lead to a shortfall in the five year housing supply. The immediate review was a mechanism to address the five year housing shortfall whilst enabling the plan to be found sound. As part of the review, the Council will need to undertake a call for sites, site assessments and regulation 18 consultation on the future provision of new homes to meet needs.
- m) Cllr Naylor asked whether an extraordinary council would be more suitable to discuss the plan.
- n) JQ advised that discussion was taking place with the Democratic Services Team to identify the most suitable way of presenting and debating the plan.
- o) Cllr Naylor asked whether as part of the Plan review if current omission sites would come forward again.
- p) JQ advised that the Council would need to follow due process in assessing any site that could provide for development needs and decisions made in line with a strategy for sustainable growth.
- q) Cllr Naylor requested that the accompanying PowerPoint slides be circulated to members.

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3. AOB

- a) Discussion about the next LDP member working group meeting currently scheduled to take place after Ordinary Council on 16 March. Agreed that this would be helpful to reschedule ahead of the decision to adopt and that this might provide an opportunity to have an all-member briefing.
- b) JQ agreed that the meeting would be rescheduled according to availability.

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