



## AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 November 2023

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Jonathan Quilter, Corporate Manager Strategic Planning
<b>REPORT IS FOR:</b>	Information

### REPORT 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.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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. 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) and reconfirmed in September 2023 (Item 153, Finance, Assets, Investment and Recovery Committee, 13 September 2023).

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.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Audit and Scrutiny Committee was last provided with a LDP Member Working Group update on 8 March 2022 (Item 327). Since then, the working group has met on 30 October 2023 (See Appendix A for draft meeting notes that have not yet been approved by this group). Discussion focussed on proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference (Appendix B), and forthcoming Call for Sites Consultation exercise that will be undertaken by the Council. A presentation was provided by officers to provide background information on the process and a summary of what the Council intends to do to achieve this (Appendix C).

## **3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None

## **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

None

## **5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

The local plan and associated documents are subject to public consultation.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer**  
**Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. There are appropriate budgets included within the medium-term financial strategy to resource the local plan and associated documents.

## **7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

**Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Acting Joint Director – People & Governance & Monitoring Officer**  
**Tel & Email 01277 312500 / claire.mayhew@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk**

The procedures that 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.

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.

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).

In addition, the Council also has a legal “duty to cooperate” in preparing the plan. (S33A 2004 Act).

## **8.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

**Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health**

**Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk**

The local plan considers equality and diversity issues.

## **9.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

**Name & Title: Phil Drane, Director - Place**

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The local 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.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Local Development Plan Member Working Group Draft Notes, 30 October 2023

Appendix B: Draft Local Development Plan Member Working Group Terms of Reference 2023/24 (includes track changes)

Appendix C: Call for Sites consultation presentation

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Local Plan Update, Item 153, Finance, Assets, Investment and Recovery Committee	13 September 2023
Local Development Plan, Member Working Group Update, Item 327, Audit and Scrutiny Committee	8 March 2022
Local Development Plan, Member Working Group Update, Item 259, Audit and Scrutiny Committee	12 January 2022
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