



AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 MARCH 2024

REPORT TITLE:	Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update
REPORT OF:	Jonathan Quilter, Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning
REPORT IS FOR:	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

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 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. 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).
- 1.2 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.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Audit and Scrutiny Committee was last provided with a LDP Member Working Group update on 14 November 2023 (Item 233). Since then, the working group has met on 29 January 2024 (see Appendix A for meeting notes approved at the 4 March 2024 LDP MWG) Discussion focussed on the updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that were published in December 2023 as well as providing a brief update on the Local Plan Review. A presentation was provided by officers to provide an overview of what the changes to the NPPF comprised (Appendix B).
- 2.2 A further meeting was held on the 4 March 2024 (see Appendix C for draft meeting notes, which have not yet been approved by the group). Discussion focussed on providing an update on the Call for Sites consultation, which was concluding that day, as well as overview of the approach to climate change and sustainability matters in the Local Plan. A presentation was provided by officers to provide background information on the call for sites process and next steps as well as an overview of existing policy covering climate change and sustainability matters along with the ongoing work being led by Essex County Council (Appendix D).

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 None

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 None

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 5.1 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

- 6.1 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

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 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).

7.4 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.rochford.gov.uk

8.1 The local plan considers equality and diversity issues.

9.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Laurie Edmonds, Corporate Manager – Economic Development

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / laurie.edmonds@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

9.1 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.

REPORT AUTHOR:

Name: Jonathan Quilter

Title: Corporate Manager, Strategic Planning

Phone: 01277 312500

Email: jonathan.quilter@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Local Development Plan Member Working Group Notes, 29 January 2024
- Appendix B: NPPF and Local Plan Review update presentation, 29 January 2024
- Appendix C: Local Development Plan Member Working Group Draft Notes, 4 March 2024
- Appendix D: Call for sites update and overview of approach to climate change and sustainability presentation, 4 March 2024

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update, Item 233, Audit and Scrutiny Committee	14/11/2023
Local Plan Update, Item 153, Finance, Assets, Investment and Recovery Committee	13/09/2023
Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update, Item 327, Audit and Scrutiny Committee	08/03/2022
Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update, Item 259, Audit and Scrutiny Committee	12/01/2022
Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update, Item 131, Audit and Scrutiny Committee	28/09/2021
Local Development Plan Member Working Group Update, Item 76, Audit and Scrutiny Committee	06/07/2021