

Extraordinary Council 5th March 2018

Item 2 refers

Recommendation from Extraordinary meeting of the Executive on 15th February 2018.

HARBOROUGH LOCAL PLAN: SUBMISSION

Councillor Hallam, declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to this item and left the meeting at 6.14pm. He took no part in the consideration of or voting on the item.

The Leader stated that representations had been received from Cllr Mrs Page and two members of the public relating to policies GD3 and HC1 clause 2 in the draft Local Plan and that these had been circulated to Executive members, with the response from the Strategic and Local Planning Manager attached, on the day of the meeting. He asked Executive members to confirm that they had received those papers, which they did. At the request of a member the Leader then allowed two minutes for members to read the representations and response.

The Head of Planning and Regeneration presented his report requesting the Panel to advise the Executive to recommend to Council that the Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 be submitted to Government for Examination. The report included three appendices, being the Statement of Consultation, the Duty to Cooperate Statement and the Schedule of Modifications following consultation on the Proposed Local Plan which had taken place between 22nd September 2017 and 17th November 2017. 2,000 representations had been made by 430 people or organisations and the main issues raised through the consultation were summarised in the officer's report. It is considered that the responses received to the consultation do not raise any issues of soundness that could not be resolved during the Local Plan Examination. As such the officers advised that the Local Plan be submitted to Government for Examination in March 2018.

The Local Planning Executive Advisory Panel at its meeting on 1st February 2018 had considered the report and its three appendices. The Panel's advice was contained in the notes of their meeting, which had been considered as the previous item on this agenda (the minute above refers).

The Executive thanked the members of the Local Planning Executive Advisory Panel, which had met regularly to progress matters in respect of the draft Local Plan, and the officers for their hard work involved in producing the draft Local Plan.

Some members expressed concerns regarding one of the proposed modifications to the Local Plan, being the addition of a new criterion GD3.1 which would state, "the delivery of strategic distribution development in accordance with Policy BE2.2" These concerns were also reflected in the representations received from Cllr Mrs Page and two members of the public, which had been sent to Executive members prior to the meeting. The Strategic and Local Planning Manager stated that it had been recognised by officers that there was an inconsistency between policies GD3 and BE2.2 in the draft Local Plan and that the intention of the proposed new criterion (GD3.1) was to resolve that conflict. It would be the decision of the Inspector at the Public Examination whether or not to accept criterion GD3.1.

At the request of Cllr King, and supported by four other members, it was agreed that a recorded vote be held on the recommendations contained in the report.

Cllrs Mrs Ackerley and Bateman stated before the vote was completed that although they would be voting in favour of recommendation 3 (the schedule of modifications) they had concerns regarding the proposed new criterion GD3.1 and wished their concerns to be recorded in the minutes.

The voting on the five recommendations contained in the report was as follows:

For:

Cllrs Mrs Ackerley, Bannister, Bateman, Hadkiss, King and Rickman.

(Cllrs Mrs Ackerley and Bateman expressed concerns regarding the proposed new criterion GD3.1 which they asked to be recorded in the minutes).

Against:

None.

Abstentions:

None.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (i) That the **Harborough Local Plan 2011 – 2031** is submitted to Government for Examination, along with the associated Policies Map, and relevant supporting evidence and documentation;
- (ii) To note the **Consultation Statement (Appendix A of the report)** and **Duty to Cooperate Statement (Appendix B of the report)**;
- (iii) That it agrees the schedule of modifications to the **Local Plan (Appendix C of the report)**;
- (iv) That it requests the appointed Inspector to recommend modifications to the submitted Local Plan, in the event that the Inspector considers that such modifications would make the Plan sound and/or legally compliant;
- (v) That it delegates authority to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, in consultation where necessary and expedient with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to:
 - a) Complete any documents required to fulfil the regulatory requirements at Local Plan submission, as set out in the **Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012** and to meet the best practice advice of the Planning Inspectorate and Planning Advisory Service; and
 - b) Agree actions and make decisions that are necessary during the examination to ensure that the Local Plan can be found sound and that any legal compliance issues are resolved; and
 - c) If needed, provide a list of minor changes for publication during the Examination;
 - d) Make any inconsequential changes and typographical changes to the submission **Local Plan, Policies Map, and other associated documentation** that are identified before the date of submission.

The report to Executive on 15th January 2018 (page 1) and Appendix C (page 16) (Proposed Modifications) are attached.

(Appendices A and B are available on the Council's website and a hard copy of each will be available at the meeting. Hard copies are also available in group rooms for Council Members and at the Harborough District Council Offices concierge for members of the public.)

Summary of Reasons

1. Work on preparing the Harborough Local Plan 2011 – 2031 (the Local Plan) is now at an advanced stage. In September 2017 Members agreed to publish the Local Plan for public consultation. This consultation is now complete and the main issues raised are summarised below.
- 2 It is considered that the responses received to the consultation do not raise any issues of soundness that cannot be resolved during the Local Plan Examination. As such the Executive is

advised to recommend to Council that the Local Plan be submitted to Government for Examination.

- 3 The Local Plan is based on a significant amount of evidence which underpins its policies and proposals. This evidence was prepared taking into account the current national, sub-regional and local planning context. It is therefore important that the Local Plan is submitted, before the value of that investment declines with the passage of time and the publishing of new material by others that could undermine it.