

## HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, The Symington Building, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough

### EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

18 December 2018

commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Bowles (Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs Ackerley, Bannister, Bateman, Beesley-Reynolds, Bilbie, Brodrick, Mrs Burrell, Champion, Chapman, Dann, Elliott, Evans, Hadkiss, Hallam, Holyoak, King, Liquorish, Mrs. Page, Rickman, Mrs Simpson, Spendlove-Mason, Tomlin and Mrs Wood.

Officers: D. Atkinson, N. Ireland (iceni), G. Keeping, N. Proudfoot, R. Thornhill and V. Wenham

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Dunton, Galton, Hall, Dr Hill, Johnson, Nunn, Pain, Mrs Robinson and Rook

### DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

### RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE: HARBOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031: PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

The Executive on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 had considered potential amendments to Policy BE2 – Strategic Distribution of the Harborough Local Plan (submission version) 2011-31 following the public examination hearings held in October 2018. In his preliminary views, the inspector had asked the Council to carry out more work related to Policy BE2 to assist him in his consideration of the soundness of the Plan.

The Executive considered that the evidence base needed to be available to enable Council to make a decision on the options in respect of Policy BE2. As paragraph 4.7 of the officer's report stated that this evidence would not be available for the Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November it was considered that paragraph 4.7 should be amended to remove that date and the officer's recommendation be amended to refer to the "amended paragraph 4.7."

The Executive agreed that the officer report to Council include the amended paragraph 4.7 and that the draft minutes of this meeting and the amendments made to paragraph 4.7 also be presented to Council for background information. The Executive recommended to Council that Policy BE2 of the Harborough Local Plan 2011-31 (submission version September 2017) is modified to allocate land adjoining Magna Park to meet the limit of 700,000 square metres in Policy BE2 (as contained at Appendix A to the officer's report), subject to the amended paragraph 4.7 of that report.

The recommendation from The Executive was moved by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Bannister. In proposing the motion, Cllr King stated that if the Council was to choose to allocate the site, the decision might, to some extent, have an impact on the case currently at appeal. However, the reasons for refusal were specific to the planning application and the decision would not prevent the Council

from defending its position at appeal. Cllr King also drew Members' attention to the following documents that had been tabled:

- Addendum to the Summary of Evidence
- Representations received from Ian Robertson and the Magna Park is Big Enough group
- Responses to submitted representations

It was then moved by Cllr Mrs Page and seconded by Cllr Mrs Ackerley that the recommendation be amended to change the phrase "to meet the limit of 700,00 square metres" to read "to meet the limit of 500,000 square metres". On being put to the vote this amendment was not carried.

The recommendation was then put to the vote as the substantive motion and was carried.

The Council thereby RESOLVED that:

Policy BE2 of the Harborough Local Plan 2011-31 (submission version September 2017) be modified to allocate land adjoining Magna Park to meet the limit of 700,000 square metres in Policy BE2 (as contained at Appendix A to the officer's report to the meeting of the Executive on 13 November 2018, subject to the amended paragraph 4.7 of that report (as attached at Appendix 1 to the minutes of that meeting)).

### Summary of Reasons

The Council submitted the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 to Government for examination in March 2018. The examination hearings were held from 2nd to 11th October 2018. At the end of the hearings the Inspector expressed his preliminary views (without prejudice to his final report) that the plan is sound subject to certain modifications – it is normal for plans to require modifications.

Most of these modifications do not require additional work. However, following the submissions at the hearings, the Inspector has asked the Council to do some more work related to Policy BE2: Strategic Distribution (see Appendix A for the full Policy wording), to assist him in his consideration of the soundness of the Local Plan.

Policy BE2 allows development of up to 700,000 square metres of Strategic Distribution floor space adjoining Magna Park subject to certain criteria, but does not allocate a specific site (or sites) to meet this limit. It is a 'criteria based' policy. The Local Plan Inspector expressed some concern about managing such a significant matter through a 'criteria based' policy.

### URGENT ITEMS

There were none.

The Meeting ended at 7.16 p.m.