

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Held in the Cromwell Suite, Three Swans Hotel, 21 High Street, Market Harborough

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

30 April 2019

commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Bowles (Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs Ackerley, Bannister, Bateman, Mrs Beesley-Reynolds, Bilbie, Mrs Burrell, Champion, Dann, Dunton, Elliott, Evans, Galton, Graves, Hadkiss, Hallam, King, Liquorish, Modha, Nunn, Mrs. Page, Rickman, Rook, Mrs Simpson, Spendlove-Mason, Tomlin and Mrs Wood

Officers: D. Atkinson, S. Hamilton, N. Proudfoot, S. Riley, R. Thornhill and V.Wenham

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Holyoak, Johnson, Knowles and Mrs Robinson

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Hallam stated, to be consistent with previous declarations, that Homes England, who are his landlord, are mentioned in the Local Plan but only in the glossary to indicate the nature of the organisation, and not in the body of the Plan. He did not have an interest to declare but gave notice as he had done so previously when Homes England had had more of an interest in the Local Plan.

Councillor Mrs Page, Councillor Galton and Councillor Liquorish stated that they are all County Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE: ADOPTION OF THE HARBOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031

The Council considered the Executive Recommendation on the adoption of the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 and noted the email submitted by Mr David Gair and the Officer response.

The Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 was submitted to the Government in March 2018. The Government appointed an Independent Planning Inspector to examine the Plan, which has taken place over the last 13 months, including public hearings over two weeks in October 2018 and is now complete. All responses to the consultation were considered by the Inspector before making his report.

The Inspector concluded that the Local Plan provides an appropriate base for the planning of the District, provided that a number of Main Modifications are made to it, which is normal practice. The Council is only able to adopt the Local Plan with these changes made to the Plan.

The Leader commented that developing and adopting a Local Plan is the most important piece of work for District Councillors to undertake, being the responsible Planning Authority. The development of the Plan began in 2013, with all Councillors involved in the shaping of the Local Plan with a number

of All-Member workshops, debates in Council on the progress of the draft and the work of the cross-party Executive Advisory Panel taking place.

He acknowledged and gave thanks to the Strategic and Local Plan Manager for having led this work, and acknowledged the contribution from Councillors, residents and other interested parties during the various stages. He stated that Councillor King deserves praise for his careful stewardship of the Plan process as the relevant Portfolio Holder.

The Leader stated that overall the proposed Local Plan sets out in detail policies, the development of Harborough District to 2031 and covers a number of key issues and objectives for the District, such as housing, where the District needs to make provision of a least 12,800 homes of which 8,800 have already been committed to. The balance will be managed in two strategic development areas, one at Scraftoft North and the other land to the east of Lutterworth. Business, employment, tourism, culture are catered for, as well as policies to facilitate growth in the local economy.

He further commented that the Plan confirms policies to avoid inappropriate development in the countryside whilst promoting rural diversification. It addresses climate change issues to encourage development but avoids the risk of flooding with green infrastructure contributing to improved water quality and bio-diversity improvements. The policies for sustainable transport and for mitigation for adverse impacts of air quality were welcomed. The Local Plan addresses the need to improve the vitality and viability of the retail sector and town centres.

The Leader appreciated that there would be areas of discontent. His personal opinion was that the allocation of floor space for strategic distribution of Magna Park is too high, and he would prefer not to see further allocation of land for warehousing south of the A4304 at Lutterworth.

However the Leader acknowledged that the various objections to the parts of the Plan have been thoroughly examined and tested, and the draft Local Plan is now in a sound state.

Councillor Galton commented that whilst he doesn't like the fact that the Plan includes a large Strategic Development Area in his Ward, however he is supportive of the Plan as it will put the Council back in control of Planning decisions. He stated that the Harborough District will now have an up-to-date Plan, and accordingly future planning applications should be determined in accordance with The Plan, which will provide sound planning reasons on which to base decisions or to turn down speculative planning applications.

Councillor Galton raised a concern that the Plan will need to be reviewed within five years, and the issues that may arise due to Leicestershire County Council judging the Harborough District Local Plan against the Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan.

Councillor Mrs Page reiterated her previous concerns in relation to BE2 – Strategic Distribution and the additional development of up to 700,000 sq. m. for strategic storage and distribution within her Ward.

A number of the Councillors commended Officers and fellow Councillors on the amount of hard work in the development of the Plan as well as acknowledging the importance of having such considerable cross-party involvement and public consultation. Councillors also fully supported the Local Plan in that it would give back control to the Council as the Planning Authority.

Councillor Graves expressed his concerns regarding transport issues in connection with the Local Plan, the level of vehicles in the Lutterworth area, the legal planning nature of the proposed "spine road" and breaches in safety relating to a number of road junctions in Broughton Astley.

It was moved by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Bannister and

RESOLVED that:

(i) the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Appendix A to the officer's report) and associated Policies Map (Appendix D) be adopted;

(ii) authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, in consultation where necessary and expedient with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to fulfil all relevant legislative duties after the Harborough Local Plan 2011 – 2031 has been adopted and any minor or typographical errors be corrected.

At the request of a Member, the vote was recorded:

Recorded vote

For: Cllrs Mrs Ackerley, Bannister, Bateman, Beesley-Reynolds, Bilbie, Bowles, Mrs Burrell, Champion, Dann, Dunton, Elliott, Evans, Galton, Hadkiss, Hallam, King, Liquorish, Modha, Nunn, Mrs Page, Rickman, Rook, Spendlove-Mason, Tomlin and Mrs Wood (25)

Against: Cllr Graves (1)

Abstention: Cllr Mrs Page (1)

Summary of Reasons

To ensure the Council has an up-to-date Local Plan to deliver sustainable development and provide a robust framework against which planning applications can be determined.

URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman announced that the forthcoming Annual Council would take place in the Market Hall in Market Harborough.

She also wished those Councillors who are re-standing in the imminent Elections good luck and thanked those Councillors who were standing down for all of their hard work and dedication.

The Meeting ended at 7.20 pm