

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of The Local Plan Advisory Panel

Held at Council Chamber

Council Offices, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough.

On Thursday, 18 January 2024

Commencing at 18:30

Present:

Councillors Bannister, Elliot, Galton, and Graves,

**Officers:** D Atkinson (Director of Planning), J Christopher (Senior Planning Policy Officer), J Ellershaw (Senior Planning Policy Officer), C Elsasser (Democratic Services Officer), T Nelson (Head of Strategic Planning), J White (Local Plan Project Officer)

**Apologies:** Councillors Modha, Woodiwiss and Burrell (substitute - Councillor Elliot)

## 1. Introductions

Members and Officers were asked to introduce themselves.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Modha, Burrell and Woodiwiss. Councillor Elliot substituted for Councillor Burrell.

## 3. Actions Arising From Previous Meeting

There were no actions arising from the previous meeting.

## 4. Receive declarations of Member's Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

## Consider the following PowerPoint Presentations:

A presentation was shared and Officers spoke to the presentation and answered Members' questions.

## **5. Issues & Options Consultation Document**

Members thanked Officers for the All Member Briefing the previous evening.

Jo White provided a brief summary of the planning policy consultations and explained the online format and demonstrated how to use the website.

On 16th January 2024 the following consultations were launched:

- Issues and Options consultation
- Call for Sites
- Great Easton Conservation Area Appraisal
- Latest additions to the Local List of Heritage Assets

The following questions and answers were provided:

Question: During the periodicals that were mentioned in advertising and community engagement - has cross counties radio been considered?

Answer: No - but we can find out what would be involved to include cross county radio.

Question: Is there anything on the notice boards?

Answer: Yes, Parishes have been sent PDFs and all Members were asked to collect and distribute leaflets within their wards. In Council reception area, there are static notice boards and further information and assistance could be provided on request.

## **6. Consultation Arrangements**

Discussed above.

## **7. Evidence Updates**

Officers presented the information to the Panel which included the following:

- Sustainability Appraisal
- Habitat Regulations Appraisal
- Duty to Cooperate Statement
- Settlement Hierarchy
- Site Selection Methodology
- Equality Impact Assessment

A summary of the sustainability appraisal were provided and it was explained that it was a legal requirement that would be used to produce a robust plan.

It was also explained that this was a guide to help make choices rather than a decision-making tool.

There was a requirement for balance, and these were fundamental within the plan preparation.

Members would be kept up to date on this process and new information would be brought to panel.

Question: How long would these take and what is the target date for completion?

Answer: There was a detailed budget plan, and many were ongoing. Examination starts immediately and the plan was submitted to the planning inspector. Officers would take through project plans if required outside of the meeting.

At future Local Plan Advisory Panels going forward, a summary of the latest evidence to inform the discussion would be provided.

Members asked various questions on site section methodology and Officers explained the multiple key stages involved in the process.

## 8. Next Steps

Officers presented the information to the Panel and explained the following:

- Further evidence on:
  - Landscape
  - Flooding
  - Water cycle
  - Town centres
  - Infrastructure
  - Viability
- Commission of the evidence briefing and getting analysis of consultation responses, to inform assessment of the options in the issues and options assessment of individual sites. Once supported, from 27 February the responses would be reviewed, and the summary of those key issues will be brought back.
- The next stage of plan preparation and various stages would be brought back to the panel as required.

**Action Point:** The team would investigate the link to the consultation not currently being the Council homepage.

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

Next meeting date to be determined – likely in mid-April.

The meeting ended at 21:30