

## **Local Plan & Planning Policy Task Group**

Notes of a Meeting of the Local Plan & Planning Policy Task Group held on the **3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017**.

### **Present:**

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman);  
Cllr. Clokie (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs. Mrs Blanford, Bradford, Mrs Dyer, Galpin, Shorter, Smith, Suddards.

### **Apologies:**

Cllrs. Dehnel, Pickering.

### **Also Present:**

Cllrs. Mrs Bell, Bell, Bennett, Burgess, A. Howard.

Simon Cole – Head of Planning Policy; Ian Grundy (IG) – Principal Policy Planner; Carly Pettit (CP) – Policy Planner; Matthew Nouch – Policy Planner; Helen Garnett – Policy Planner; Richard Alderton – Corporate Director (Place and Space); Jennifer Shaw – Housing Strategy Manager; Jeremy Baker – Principal Solicitor (Strategic Development); Rosie Reid – Member Services and Ombudsman Liaison Officer.

## **1 Declarations of Interest**

- 1.1 Councillor Clarkson made a Voluntary Announcement as he was a Director for A Better Choice for Property Ltd and a member of the Weald of Kent Protection Society.
- 1.2 Cllr Smith made a Voluntary Announcement as he was Treasurer of the South Willesborough and Newtown Community Group.
- 1.3 Cllr. Shorter made a Voluntary Announcement as he was a Director of A Better Choice for Building Consultancy Ltd and Kent Play Clubs.
- 1.4 Cllr. Clokie made a Voluntary Announcement as he was a Member of the Weald of Kent Protection Society, Tenterden and District Residents Association and Campaign to Protect Rural England.

## **2 Notes of the Meetings of 13<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

- 2.1 The Notes of the Local Plan & Planning Policy Task Group Meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were approved.

### **3 Draft Response to DCLG Consultation ‘Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places’**

- 3.1 The Head of Planning Policy introduced this item. He explained that, although this item had been discussed at length at the last meeting, it was on the agenda at this meeting so that Task Group members would have an opportunity to discuss and agree the final response, which had to be submitted by 9<sup>th</sup> November. Cabinet members had also been invited to attend this meeting in order to assist in finalising the Council’s response.
- 3.2 It was agreed that the questions and responses would be considered in individual order, and the following amendments were made:

#### Question 1(a)

A Member expressed concern about the wording of the penultimate paragraph, and it was agreed that the reference to Ashford would be removed and replaced with ‘largely rural districts’.

#### Question 5(a)

The importance of the transitional arrangements should be emphasised to allow the Council to take advantage of the existing methodology.

#### Question 5(c)

Amend typo in first paragraph. Emphasis to be given to the first sentence of the second paragraph to indicate the importance of this issue.

#### Question 7(b)

Change response to “Yes”.

#### Question 7(c)

Change response to “No”.

#### Question 8

Amend typo in last paragraph.

#### Question 10(a)

Emphasis to be put on the question of what will replace SHMA. A well-defined protocol is required in its place, and the onus should be on Central Government to clarify this point.

#### Question 12

Emphasis to be placed on the requirement for a proactive role from central government where investment in public infrastructure to assist the delivery of housing can be subject to competitive bidding processes and where it can take a significant time for funds to come forward.

### Question 13

Amend typos, and third sentence to include “developers”. Add that this needs to form part of the review of the NPPF/practice guidance.

### Question 14

More emphasis on final paragraph.

### Question 17(c)

Comment on this question detailing publicity work currently undertaken by the Council and ideas for improvements.

### Question 18(a)

Reinforce final paragraph.

### Question 19

Amend second paragraph to say that the proposed approach **must** be changed through revisions to the NPPF to create the right conditions for housing delivery on the ground.

Responses to Questions 1(b), 2, 3, 4, 5(b), 6, 7(a), 9(a), 9(b), 10(b), 11(a), 11(b), 15, 16, 17(a), 17(b), 18(b), 18(c), were agreed.

- 3.3 Members agreed that Officers should produce an amended set of responses, and circulate these to Task Group and Cabinet members within the next few days so the final response could be endorsed. The final response would be tabled at Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Resolved**

- i) That the Task Group agrees the proposed responses to the consultation questions, subject to the amendments above, and subject to the final responses being circulated to Task Group and Cabinet members for endorsement.**

## **4 Duty to Cooperate Update**

- 4.1 The Head of Planning Policy introduced this item. He explained that an issue had recently arisen with a representation from another authority and he and the Chief Executive had met with Officers from that authority. He had been asked to update the Task Group with the results of that meeting. He reported that the other authority had agreed to withdraw their representation on the basis that a Statement of Common Ground would be drawn up between the two Authorities that would establish more formalised discussions together with other relevant councils on how to meet housing requirements. The Chairman wished to thank the officers for resolution of this issue, and confirmed that Members would be pleased to have further conversations with that authority at a future date.

**Resolved**

- i) **That the report be received and noted.**

## **5 Main Changes to the Local Plan 2030 – Public Consultation July 2017 – Site Proposals**

- 5.1 The Policy Planner (CP) introduced this item and gave a presentation which covered the site comments received and options for dealing with these. She explained that the presentation was an update from the report as it included more recent information.
- 5.2 The Principal Policy Planner (IG) introduced the item on Omission Sites. He explained that 22 new sites had been submitted during Summer 2017 as part of the consultation exercise. 10 of these sites were remaining after first stage Sustainability Appraisal screening. Some of these sites would be decided by the Planning Committee in due course if planning applications were received.
- 5.3 Members instructed Officers that the Local Plan must be submitted to the Planning Inspector by the end of 2017. The Head of Planning Policy confirmed that the Local Plan would be submitted electronically, and a paper version would follow thereafter. It was currently anticipated that the examination hearings would be scheduled for April/May 2018 but this would be subject to confirmation by the Planning Inspectorate following submission of the Local Plan.

**Resolved**

- i) **That the Task Group agrees the proposed approach to dealing with the site allocation policy issues, as outlined in the report.**
- ii) **That the information on Omission Sites be received and noted.**
- iii) **That the Task Group instructs Officers that the Local Plan 2030 must be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate before the end of 2017.**

## **6 Date of Next Meetings**

- 6.1 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 – CR2 – 9.30am  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – Council Chamber – 10am

Councillor Clarkson (Chairman)  
Local Plan & Planning Policy Task Group

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Queries concerning these minutes? Please contact Rosie Reid:  
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