

Ashford Borough Council: Local Plan & Planning Policy Task Group

Notes of a Virtual Meeting of the Local Plan & Planning Policy Task Group held on Microsoft Teams on **21 February 2024**.

Present:

Cllr Bartlett (Chair)
Cllr Ledger (Vice-Chair)

Cllrs Mrs Bell (part-meeting), Hallett, Harman (ex-Officio), Michael, Roden and Wright.

Also present:

Cllrs Bell, Brunger-Randall, Gathern, Hicks, L Suddards.

In attendance:

Housing Development and Regeneration Manager; Team Leader - Plan Making and Infrastructure; Team Leader – Plan Making and Infrastructure; Deputy Team Leader – Plan Making and Infrastructure; Deputy Team Leader – Plan Making and Infrastructure; Developer Contributions Monitoring Officer; Monitoring Support Officer; Economic Development Manager; Principal Solicitor - Strategic Development; Senior Planning and Development Lawyer; Member Services Officer.

1. Apologies and substitutions

- 1.1. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Blanford and Chilton. The Spatial Planning Manager also gave his apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Cllr Bartlett declared that he was a Member of Kent County Council (KCC) and had had knowledge of the KCC Minerals Plan. He also declared his membership of Kennington Community Council which had submitted sites for the Local Plan.
- 2.2 Cllr Gathern declared that her husband served on the parish council at Great Chart and Singleton.
- 2.3 Cllr Hicks declared that she lived on Magpie Hall Road and served on Kingsnorth Parish Council.
- 2.4 Cllr Ledger declared that he served on Shadoxhurst Parish Council

3. Notes of the last Meeting

3.1 Resolved

The Notes of the meeting of 31 January 2023 were received and agreed.

4. KCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Regulation 19

4.1 One of the Team Leaders – Plan Making and Infrastructure introduced the item, highlighting issues that had previously been articulated to KCC which officers recommend still need further addressing, specifically in regard to the future management of waste. Concern was also expressed that KCC's Annual Monitoring Report did not offer permanent assurance regarding mineral safeguarding.

4.2 A Member asked for further explanation of the site exemption for minerals. The Team Leader – Plan Making and Infrastructure clarified that some of the sites allocated in the Local Plan had been subject to assessment for mineral safeguarding so that there would be no further scrutiny needed in that respect as the sites came forward for development. When KCC undertook to review their plan in 2016, that certainty had fallen away, and the AMR did not offer an equivalent level of comfort. This would not affect the production of the new Local Plan, but there was a potential for it to affect existing allocated sites.

4.3 It was confirmed that currently Section 106 contributions are not collected by ABC for waste management, and that commercial waste management falls outside of KCC's and ABC's control.

4.4. A Member suggested an adjustment to the letter to reflect the extended Regulation 19 Plan period, to 2039.

Resolved

The Local Plan and Planning Policy Task Group agreed to:

- **endorse the contents of the paper as a means of framing a response to the consultation on the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review; and**
- **delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Planning and Development and Assistant Director of Environment, Property & Recreation to finalise and agree any responses between the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing Delivery and Communication, the Portfolio Holder for Climate, Environment and Transport, the Portfolio Holder for Recreation and Public Spaces and The Chair of Task Group.**

5. Call For Sites – Part 2

- 5.1 Officers presented a series of slides of areas within the town centre, peripheral areas, and Tenterden areas, showing the site submissions on aerial photographs, and explaining their proposed usage.
- 5.2 Officers were thanked by the Chair for the comprehensive presentations at the two meetings.
- 5.3 Members asked some general questions about next steps, supporting infrastructure, affordability and viability. Officers provided responses and explained the site assessment process.
- 5.4 Members and Officers discussed the best way to ensure all Members were aware of the call for sites information going live before it was made public.
- 5.5 The Chair asked the Principal Solicitor – Strategic Development to remind all Members in writing of their responsibilities regarding Declaration of Interests in the context of the Local Plan process and the need to adhere to the requirement of confidentiality of the information.

Resolved

The Local Plan & Planning Policy Task Group noted the contents of the presentation.

6. Member Tracker

- 6.1 The Chair asked Officers to consider a paper on green corridor protection and to ensure the information gathered by the Land Mapping Commission was taken into account.

7. Date and time of the next meeting

- 7.1 Wednesday 3 April 2024, at 2pm, via TEAMS.

Councillor Bartlett
Chairman – Local Plan & Planning Policy Task Group

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