

Minutes

Local Plan Sub-Committee

2nd October 2017

Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
D Bebb	Apologies	Mrs J Money	Yes
Mrs L Bowers-Flint (Chairman)	Yes	Lady Newton	Apologies
G Butland	Yes	Mrs W Scattergood	Apologies
T Cunningham	Yes	Mrs G Spray	Yes
D Hume	Yes	Miss M Thorogood	Yes

Councillor Bowers was also in attendance.

15 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: The following interests were declared:

Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 - Local Development Scheme – Revised; Agenda Item 6 - Spatial Strategy Formulation; and Agenda Item 7 - Braintree District Publication Draft Local Plan - Consultation Responses as a non-remunerated and non-voting Director of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd.

Councillor G Butland declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 - Local Development Scheme – Revised; Agenda Item 6 - Spatial Strategy Formulation; and Agenda Item 7 - Braintree District Publication Draft Local Plan - Consultation Responses as a non-remunerated Director of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd.

Councillor T Cunningham declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 - Local Development Scheme – Revised; Agenda Item 6 - Spatial Strategy Formulation; and Agenda Item 7 - Braintree District Publication Draft Local Plan - Consultation Responses as he had been engaged by the Campaign Against Urban Sprawl in Essex (CAUSE) prior to the Essex County Council Elections in 2017 for which he had been a candidate.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillors remained in the meeting, unless stated otherwise, and took part in the discussion when the Items were considered.

16 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Committee held on 11th July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were two statements made. Details of the people who spoke at the meeting are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.

Principally, these Minutes record decisions taken only and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions.

18 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME - REVISED**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on an updated version of the Local Development Scheme.

The Council was required to publish a Local Development Scheme, which set out the timetable for the production of the Local Plan, other Strategic Growth/Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents over the forthcoming three years. The revised, draft Local Development Scheme covered the period from October 2017 to December 2019 and it was attached as an electronic Appendix to the report. The document would replace the previous Local Development Scheme for the period 2017 – 2019, which had been approved in February 2017.

The Local Development Scheme had been revised to update the status of the draft Local Plan evidence base and the timetable for the production of Strategic Growth/Development Plan Documents relating to proposed garden communities. The revised Local Development Scheme proposed that the draft Local Plan should be submitted to The Planning Inspectorate in early October 2017. It was anticipated that public examinations of the draft Plan would take place in Winter 2017 and Spring 2018 and that it would be adopted by the Council in September 2018, as previously scheduled.

DECISION: That the Braintree District Local Development Scheme October 2017 – December 2019 be approved.

19 **SPACIAL STRATEGY FORMULATION**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on the Spatial Strategy Formulation document. This document summarised the background evidence base of the draft Local Plan and the opportunities and constraints which had been considered in determining the most appropriate strategy for meeting the growth requirements of the District. The document was attached as an electronic Appendix to the report.

Eight development options had been considered as part of the production of the draft Local Plan and it had been concluded that a combination of four options would provide the most appropriate strategy for the District. These were that new homes should be focused on existing towns and villages; new homes should be built in one or more new villages; new homes should be built in areas where they could provide funding for major infrastructure projects such as new roads; and that new homes should be built on the existing public transport/rail network in order to encourage sustainable travel.

Four spatial maps had been included in the Spatial Strategy Formulation document which identified areas with significant environmental constraints; areas which had landscape capacity issues; the availability of services in particular areas; and areas which were located nearest to the transport network. The document would form part of the evidence base when the draft Local Plan was submitted to The Planning Inspectorate in October 2017.

DECISION: That the Spatial Strategy Formulation document be approved as part of the evidence base of the Braintree District Draft Local Plan.

20 **BRAINTREE DISTRICT PUBLICATION DRAFT LOCAL PLAN - CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

INFORMATION: Members of the Local Plan Sub-Committee considered a report on the responses which had been received following consultation on the draft Local Plan.

On 5th June 2017 the Council had agreed to undertake a final round of consultation on the draft Local Plan prior to submitting it to The Planning Inspectorate for examination. The consultation had taken place over a period of six weeks from 16th June 2017 to 28th July 2017. The consultation had related to both Section 1 of the Plan which had been prepared jointly with Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council to deal with cross boundary strategic issues including garden communities; and Section 2 of the Plan which related specifically to the Braintree District. A summary of the responses submitted in respect of Section 1 were attached as an Appendix to the report and those submitted in respect of Section 2 were available to view on the Council's website.

A total of 666 responses from 220 individual consultees had been received by Braintree District Council regarding Section 1 of the Plan. These were being combined with responses received by Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council making a total of approximately 1,123 comments, including a response by the Campaign Against Urban Sprawl in Essex (CAUSE), which had been submitted on behalf of 1,250 individuals. In an update to the report, it was stated that a total 1,103 responses from 348 individuals had been received on Section 2 of the Local Plan.

It was proposed that the Council, together with Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council should submit the Publication Draft Local Plan, evidence base and all representations to The Planning Inspectorate in early October 2017. An Inspector would be appointed to examine the Plan and it was anticipated that

public hearings would start at least 10 weeks following submission. Section 1 of the draft Plan would be examined first in a separate joint examination with partner Authorities, followed by Section 2.

The consultation responses submitted regarding the soundness of the draft Local Plan would also be sent to The Planning Inspectorate. It was not considered that the Council should make or consult on major changes to the draft Plan in response to the comments received. However, it was anticipated that the Inspector would make minor changes and updates during the examination and he/she would also be able to propose more major modifications to the Local Plan. It was expected that the examination process would be completed in the Autumn of 2018 when the Local Plan could be adopted.

In discussing this Item, Members stated that the Council had been praised for the fair and open manner in which consultation on the draft Local Plan had been undertaken and they wished to record their appreciation for the work of Ms Emma Goodings, Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development and staff within the Planning Policy Team.

DECISION: That the responses submitted following consultation on Braintree District Council Publication Draft Local Plan be noted.

At the close of the meeting, it was reported that an additional meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Committee had been arranged for Monday, 6th November 2017 starting at 6.00pm.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 6.50pm.

Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint
(Chairman)

APPENDIX

LOCAL PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE

2ND OCTOBER 2017

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Details of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

- 1 Statements Relating to Agenda Item 7 – Braintree District Publication Draft Local Plan – Consultation Responses (Shared Section 1 Strategic Plan for North Essex - North Essex Garden Communities)
 - (i) Statement by Mr Tom Foster, Chairman of the Campaign Against Urban Sprawl in Essex (CAUSE), Little Greys, Maldon Road, Kelvedon
 - (ii) Statement by Mr Giles Coode-Adams, for the Campaign Against Urban Sprawl in Essex (CAUSE), c/o Little Greys, Maldon Road, Kelvedon