

Minutes

Local Plan Sub-Committee 30th March 2023



Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
J Abbott	Yes	Mrs I Parker	Yes
K Bowers	Apologies	Mrs W Scattergood	Yes
G Butland	Yes	Mrs G Spray (Chairman)	Yes
J Coleridge	Apologies	P Thorogood	Yes (until 7.02pm)
T Cunningham	Yes	J Wrench	No
A Everard	Yes	Vacancy	

Councillor D Hume

At the commencement of the meeting the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Spray, announced with regret that Councillor David Hume, who had been a Member of the Local Plan Sub-Committee had passed away recently. Councillor Mrs Spray stated that Councillor Hume had always tried to attend and participate in meetings of the Sub-Committee despite issues affecting his health and that he would be missed.

14 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: There were no interests declared.

15 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Committee held on 24th November 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were no questions asked or statements made.

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

17 **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT - GUIDANCE**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on the Council's proposed Guidance Note for Health and Well-being Impact Assessments.

It was reported, that following the adoption of Section 2 of the Braintree District Local Plan 2013 to 2033, Policy LPP49 – 'Health and Well-being Impact Assessment' had come into force. This policy required that planning applications for more than 50 dwellings; all C2 development (residential institutions such as care homes and hospitals); non-residential development over 1000 sqm; and hot food takeaways should be submitted with a Health and Well-being Impact Assessment (HIA). An HIA was a tool which helped to identify and to optimise the health and well-being impacts of a planning proposal.

The proposed 'Health and Well-being Impact Assessment for Development Management Proposals – Guidance Note for Developers/Agents' was attached at Appendix 1 to the Agenda report. This included a template which could be used by developers and agents to assess the impact of their proposals in the Braintree District. The document included guidance on when an HIA should be carried out, what should be included in it, and how any impacts should be assessed. Once completed, an HIA could be used by the Council when undertaking pre-application discussions, or when determining a planning application. Officers would also be able to assess whether any further measures should be required to mitigate any negative impacts of a development.

Once agreed, the HIA Guidance would be available to view on the Council's website.

DECISION: That the 'Health and Well-being Impact Assessment for Development Management Proposals - Guidance Note for Developers/Agents', as set out at Appendix 1 to the Agenda report, be approved.

18 **SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT GUIDANCE NOTE**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on a proposed 'Sustainability Statement Guidance Note'. The Note would provide guidelines, in addition to the policies set out in the adopted Braintree District Local Plan 2013 to 2033, for improving energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

It was reported that the submission of a Sustainability Statement would be required for planning applications relating to residential and residential-led mixed use developments of one or more units, or non-residential developments with floorspace equal to or more than 501 sqm. The Statement would demonstrate how a new

residential, or employment development could be constructed in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Statement would provide information to decision makers on the sustainability credentials of a development. This would be achieved through a set of assessment questions, which would test the performance of a development against sustainability technical standards. The minimum sustainability standards reflected the requirements set out in the Local Plan and Parts L and O of the Building Regulations 2021, with higher standards promoted as optional guidance.

It was reported that the National Planning Policy Framework 2023 and secondary legislation to the Environment Act 2022 were due to be published in 2023 and that both could render the Sustainability Statement Guidance Note out of date shortly after adoption. Furthermore, the requirement for a Sustainability Statement would necessitate changes to the Council's local validation list for planning applications. Consequently, it was proposed that the Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Head of Planning and Economic Growth, should be authorised to make minor changes to the Sustainability Statement Guidance Note.

DECISION:

- (1) That the Sustainability Statement Guidance Note, as set out at Appendix 1 to the Agenda report, be approved for use by decision makers in the consideration of planning applications for residential and residential-led mixed use developments of one or more units, or non-residential developments with floorspace equal to or more than 501 sqm.
- (2) That it be noted that the National Planning Policy Framework 2023 and secondary legislation to the Environment Act 2022, both of which are due to be published in 2023, could require reciprocal amendments to the Sustainability Statement Guidance Note.
- (3) That it be noted that the Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Head of Planning and Economic Growth, may make minor changes to the Sustainability Statement Guidance Note.

19 ANGLIAN WATER WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024 – CONSULTATION

INFORMATION: Members of the Local Plan Sub-Committee considered a report on Anglian Water's draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024, which had been circulated for the purpose of public consultation. Members were requested to approve the Council's proposed response to the document, which was set out in the Agenda report.

Members were advised that two companies, 'Anglian Water' and 'Essex and Suffolk Water' supplied potable water to the Braintree District. 'Essex and Suffolk Water' supplied water to the Rivenhall, Silver End and Witham areas of the District, whilst 'Anglian Water' supplied water to the other areas of the District.

It was reported that all water companies had a statutory duty to produce a Water Resources Management Plan to demonstrate how they would deliver a sustainable supply of drinking water within their area to meet existing and future demand. Plans covered a period of 25 years and they were subject to review every five years.

'Anglian Water's' draft Management Plan covered the period from 2025 to 2050. The Plan provided a forecast of deployable water supply and the scale of likely demand. In addition, the Plan reviewed supply and demand management options; assessed the associated environmental impact and risk factors; and addressed the need to adapt to changing circumstances.

In discussing this item, Members were advised that the Council had not been consulted by 'Essex and Suffolk Water' about their draft Water Resources Management Plan. Members queried also whether there was any overlap within the District between the services provided by 'Anglian Water' and Essex and Suffolk Water'.

DECISION:

- (1) That the proposed response to 'Anglian Water' following consultation on their draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024, as set out in the Agenda report, be approved.
- (2) That 'Essex and Suffolk Water' be requested to indicate when they would be publishing their draft Water Resources Management Plan for consultation.
- (3) That 'Anglian Water' be requested to advise whether there is any overlap within the District between the services provided by 'Anglian Water' and 'Essex and Suffolk Water'.

20 ANGLIAN WATER STORM OVERFLOW REPORT 2023 – CONSULTATION

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on 'Anglian Water's' 'Storm Overflow Report 2023', which had been circulated for the purpose of public consultation. The consultation period had run from 6th February 2023 to 3rd March 2023. The report was a standalone part of 'Anglian Water's' 'Waste Water Management Plan', which had been subject to consultation in 2020. Members of the Sub-Committee were requested to note the Council's response to the document, which was set out in the Agenda report.

Members were reminded that Policy SP6 of Part 1 of the adopted Braintree District Local Plan 2013 to 2033 stated that the Council would work with 'Anglian Water' and other bodies to secure sufficient capacity in the water supply and waste water infrastructure to serve new development. Furthermore, Policy LPP70 of Part 2 of the Local Plan sought to prevent development which would contribute to unacceptable impacts on surface and ground waters. It was noted that the Braintree District Water Cycle Study indicated that sufficient drinking water and waste water would be available to support growth within the period of the Local Plan.

It was reported that in March 2022 the Water Services Regulatory Authority (OFWAT), as the body responsible for regulating the privatised water and sewerage industry, had asked waste water companies in England to submit river water quality action plans setting out how they would tackle storm overflow and improve river quality. In addition, in August 2022 the Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had set targets for water companies in its Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan (SODRP). 'Anglian Water's' Storm Overflow Report 2023 represented its response to these requirements. Storm overflows and associated equipment provided a safety mechanism, which prevented untreated waste water entering watercourses and details of the storm overflows located in the Braintree District were attached at Appendix 1 to the Agenda report. The information provided by 'Anglian Water' showed that there had been an average of 25 spills per storm overflow in 2020, which had been the third lowest of the nine water companies in England. It was also noted that 'Anglian Water' aimed to implement ten improvement schemes to storm overflows by 2025; to eliminate all serious incidents of pollution by 2025; to reduce less serious incidents of pollution by 45%; and to reduce spills from storm overflows to an average of 20 per year by 2025.

DECISION: That the Council's response to 'Anglian Water' following consultation on their Storm Overflow Report 2023, as set out in the Agenda report, be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.16pm.

Councillor Mrs G Spray
(Chairman)