

# Minutes

## Local Plan Sub-Committee 5th July 2022



Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
J Abbott	Yes	D Hume	Apologies
K Bowers	Yes	Mrs I Parker	Yes
G Butland	Apologies	Mrs W Scattergood	Yes
J Coleridge	Apologies	Mrs G Spray (Chairman)	Yes
T Cunningham	Yes	P Thorogood	Yes
A Everard	Yes	J Wrench	Yes

The start time of the meeting was delayed by five minutes as Ms E Goodings, Head of Planning and Economic Growth, had been delayed in traffic.

### 5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**INFORMATION:** The following interests were declared:

Councillor J Abbott declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 5 – ‘Braintree District Draft Local Plan Section 2 – Adoption’ as a Member of Rivenhall Parish Council, which had submitted representations on the Draft Local Plan; and, in his capacity as a Braintree District Councillor for Silver End and Cressing Ward, he had submitted representations on the Plan and he taken part in the Hearings which had been held as part of the Examination process.

Councillor P Thorogood declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 5 – ‘Braintree District Draft Local Plan Section 2 – Adoption’ as, in response to public consultation on the proposed Main Modifications to the Plan, he had queried the wording of the Sustainability Appraisal. However, Councillor Thorogood stated that he had maintained an open mind and, having taken advice from the Council’s Governance Team, he would participate in the debate and decision on this matter.

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

6 **MINUTES**

**DECISION:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Committee held on 13th June 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7 **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.

8 **BRAINTREE DISTRICT DRAFT LOCAL PLAN SECTION 2 - ADOPTION**

**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to a report on the proposed adoption of Section 2 of Braintree District Draft Local Plan.

It was reported that Braintree District Council had submitted its Draft Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate in October 2017. Section 1 of the Plan, which was shared with Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council, contained strategic cross boundary issues and this had been adopted by the Council in February 2021 following formal Examination and the submission of Main Modifications. It was proposed that the Council should now adopt Section 2 of the Local Plan which contained policies relating specifically to the Braintree District for the period up to 2033.

Mr Jameson Bridgewater and Ms Anne Jordan had been appointed by the Planning Inspectorate to examine Section 2 of the Local Plan and an Examination had taken place in July 2021. The Inspectors had subsequently recommended 'Main Modifications' in order to make the Plan sound and a list of these Modifications had been sent to the Council in November 2021. The 'Main Modifications' were set out in a schedule attached at Appendix 2 to the Agenda report. On 25th November 2021, the Local Plan Sub-Committee had agreed that these 'Main Modifications', together with Additional Modifications and consequential amendments to the Plan's maps should be subject to public consultation. It had also been agreed that revised versions of the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) and the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) should also be subject to public consultation. The SA/SEA was attached at Appendix 4 to the Agenda report. It was noted that the SA/SEA had been updated further in response to minor changes to the 'Main Modifications' and a copy of the revised document had been published. The HRA had not been updated. Public consultation had taken place between 6th December 2021 and 24th January 2022 and the comments submitted had been published on the Council's website and sent to the Planning Inspectors for consideration.

The Council had received the Inspectors' final report on the Plan on 14th June 2022 and this had been published on the Council's website. A copy was also attached at Appendix 1 to the Agenda report. The Inspectors' report stated that the duty to co-operate had been met and that, subject to the recommended 'Main Modifications', the Plan satisfied the requirements of Section 20(5)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and it was sound. A copy of the Local Plan including all Modifications was attached at Appendix 3 to the Agenda report.

The adoption of Section 2 of the Plan would be considered by Full Council on 25th July 2022 and, if approved, the Council would be required to publish an 'Adoption Statement' on its website. Once adopted, Section 2 of the Plan would replace the remaining parts of the Council's Replacement Local Plan 2005 and its Core Strategy 2011. In the future, the Development Plan for the District would comprise the Essex Minerals Plan, the Essex Waste Plan, Sections 1 and 2 of Braintree District Local Plan and any local Neighbourhood Plans; and all planning applications would be determined in accordance with it.

In discussing this Item, Members of the Local Plan Sub-Committee acknowledged that the Plan was the culmination of a long process and that the document would influence development in the District for the foreseeable future. Members thanked the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, past Chairmen, fellow District Councillors and members of the public for their input and participation in the process. In particular, Members praised Ms E Goodings, the Council's Head of Planning and Economic Growth, for her knowledge, attention to detail, enthusiasm and dedication, which had earned her respect both locally and beyond the District. Members acknowledged also the role of the Council's current and past Corporate Directors in the process and they thanked the Officers of the Council's Planning Policy Team for their hard work.

Concern was expressed, that whilst the Plan had identified sufficient sites within the District for the development of new housing, some sites for which planning permission had already been granted were not being developed in a timely way. It was noted that there were a number of reasons for this and that Officers were monitoring the position.

#### **DECISION:**

- (1) That the findings of the Planning Inspectors' 'Report on the Examination of the Braintree District Council Local Plan Section 2' received on 14th June 2022 (as attached at Appendix 1 to the Agenda report) and their final 'Schedule of Main Modifications – June 2022' (as attached at Appendix 2 to the Agenda report) be noted.

- (2) That it be **Recommended to Council** that in accordance with Section 23(3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the formal adoption of the Braintree District Council Local Plan Section 2, incorporating the Inspectors' final 'Main Modifications', 'Additional Modifications' and 'Modifications to Local Plan Maps' (as attached at Appendix 3 to the Agenda report) be approved.

The meeting commenced at 6.05pm and closed at 6.55pm.

Councillor Mrs G Spray  
(Chairman)