
Planning and Transportation Policy Working Group

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT on Thursday, 14 March 2024 from 7.00 pm - 7.40 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Ann Cavanagh (Substitute for Councillor Kieran Golding), Charles Gibson (Substitute for Councillor Mike Henderson), Alastair Gould (Chair), James Hunt, Richard Palmer, Julien Speed, Karen Watson and Tony Winckless.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Joanne Johnson, Kellie MacKenzie and Stuart Watson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (VIRTUALLY): Councillors Peter Macdonald and Terry Thompson.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Kieran Golding, Mike Henderson and Mike Whiting.

769 **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

The Chair outlined the emergency evacuation procedure.

770 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 January 2024 (Minute Nos. 574 – 578) were taken as read approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

771 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

772 **Local Plan Review consultation timetable options**

The Interim Planning Policy Manager introduced the report as set out in the agenda papers.

The Chair invited comments from Member and points raised included:

- Considered that Option 1A should be approved to enable a better public consultation;
- supported Option 2;
- felt it was all being rushed and should be spread out more;
- the public consultation should be 12 weeks rather than six;
- felt clearly identifying the main changes since Bearing Fruits and the 2021 consultation would be useful;
- the Council could use the Area Committees, Local Liaison Forum and Kent Association of Local Councils as part of the public consultation;
- important that the Council had a Local Plan that was fit for purpose;
- what were the advantages of having a four-year housing land supply?;
- could officers reflect on any impacts of the pre-election period on the consultation?;
- the consultation needed to be pro-active, so residents felt involved;
- officers should provide hard copies of the Local Plan for Members; and
- it would be beneficial to have Appendix B for each informal meeting or on the

Members Teams Channel.

The Chair and Interim Planning Policy Manager clarified where necessary and responded to questions raised by Members. The Interim Planning Policy Manager said it was important that residents understood the process and officers would explore the provision of online presentations and liaise with parishes to ensure they were engaged. He confirmed that Appendix B would be updated as evidence progressed.

The Chair said it was important that members of the Committee feedback to their groups to ensure they were aware of the processes.

Recommended:

- (1) That the Local Plan Review consultation approach Option 2 that included a Regulation 18 draft Plan consultation in quarter 4 of this year and a Regulation 19 pre-submission Plan consultation in quarter 1 of 2025 be approved.***
- (2) That the updated Local Development Scheme at Appendix A be agreed and be published on the Council's website.***

Chair

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All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel