

LOCAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

19 October 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

Present : Councillors Charles (Chairman), Ambler, Mrs Bence, Bicknell, Cooper, Elkins, Mrs Maconachie and Mrs Stainton.

Councillor Maconachie was also present at the meeting.

18. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Bower, Brooks, Mrs Brown, Chapman, Mrs Hall and Oppler.

19. Declarations of Interest

The Monitoring Officer has advised Members of interim arrangements to follow when making declarations of interest. They have been advised that for the reasons explained below, they should make their declarations on the same basis as the former Code of Conduct using the descriptions of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Reasons

- The Council has adopted the government's example for a new local code of conduct, but new policies and procedures relating to the new local code are yet to be considered and adopted.
- Members have not yet been trained on the provisions of the new local code of conduct.
- The definition of Pecuniary Interests is narrower than the definition of Prejudicial Interests so, by declaring a matter as a Prejudicial Interest, that will cover the requirement to declare a Pecuniary Interest in the same matter.

There were no declarations of interest made.

20. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2016 were approved by the Sub-Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman, subject to reference at Minute 15 to "the Working Party" being corrected to "the Subcommittee".

21. Objectively Assessed Housing Need Update

The Head of Planning Policy & Strategic Development advised that the report on the table provided an update in relation to the latest housing needs evidence for the District following the release of the 2014 based Sub-National Population Projections in the summer of 2016. It considered the implications of the revised housing need figure for the Local Plan as well as for decision making.

The Subcommittee was reminded that in February 2016, the Local Plan Inspector set out his conclusion on the Council's objectively assessed housing needs (OAN) and had concluded that the need of the District at that time was 845 dpa (dwellings per annum), based on the 2012 projections. However, following publication of the 2014 projections in 2016, the new data showed a stronger population growth driven by higher than expected net in-migration, resulting in an increase in the assessed housing need to 18,380 homes which equates to 919 dpa over the plan period. This further uplift in OAN would be considered as part of the proposed modifications to the Local Plan, which would be reported to Members in due course.

The report also considered the need for different types of homes and identified a strategic mix of homes as an appropriate starting point for monitoring housing provision, as set out at Table 1 of Section 2.

Following some questions which related specifically to the updated Housing Needs Evidence report by GL Hearn and which were responded to by the Head of Planning Policy & Strategic Development, the Subcommittee

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

22. Arun Local Plan – Evidence Base Update

The Head of Planning Policy & Strategic Development presented this report which provided an update on the progress of evidence base studies commissioned to support the preparation of main modifications to the Arun Local Plan (2011 -2031) Publication Version (October 2014). Members were also advised that under paragraph 1.4, the Open Space Standards and Landscape Study had now been finalised and would be available on the Local Plan Examination website for viewing.

The Head of Planning Policy & Strategic Development highlighted that

- Locations such as Barnham, Angmering and Ford had been identified as having generally low capacity to accommodate residential development in landscape terms but there were areas where there was medium to high capacity.

- Fontwell, Yapton, LEGA (Littlehampton Economic Growth Area) and Climping were considered to have medium to high capacity to accommodate residential development.
- Ferring had been identified as having negligible capacity to accommodate development.
- The report also gave an update on employment and retail studies that would be presented to the next meeting.

Members were also given a verbal update that the Local Plan timetable needed to be amended due to the complexity of highways issues, which was holding up work on the Viability Study and Infrastructure Development Plan. He highlighted the following:-

17 November 2016 – Briefing for all Members – Cancelled
5 December 2016 – Meeting of Subcommittee – Cancelled
23 January 2017 – Briefing for all Members – new date
8 March 2017 – Meeting of Subcommittee – new date
9 March 2017 – Meeting of Subcommittee – new date
22 March 2017 – Meeting of Full Council – To be confirmed

In the course of a brief discussion, a concern was raised with regard to infrastructure and the Head of Planning Policy & Strategic Development was able to advise that the matter would be considered at the meeting in January 2017.

Following further comment, the Subcommittee

RESOLVED

That the update provided on the progress of evidence base studies commissioned to support the preparation of main modifications to the Arun Local Plan (2011-2031) Publication Version (October 2014), be noted.

(The meeting concluded at 6.26 pm)