

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 21 February 2017

**Subject:** Planning Policy

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor J Philip

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## **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Planning Policy Portfolio Holder be noted**

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## **Local Plan consultation and next steps**

The Council received approximately 3,300 individual responses to the consultation on the Draft Local Plan. Of these approximately half were received via the online questionnaire, about 200 via hard copy questionnaire, and the remainder a mixture of letters and emails. These have all been inputted into the system and are being classified and analysed. A summary report setting out high level findings from the consultation (including key issues raised) will be on the agenda for the 9 March Cabinet meeting. Further more detailed analysis on an area basis will then be undertaken and will form the basis of a further report.

Following consideration of the comments received in response to the Draft Local Plan consultation, the next stage will be to prepare a plan for publication and to publish it under Regulation 19. As part of this process officers have established a Developer Forum alongside the progression of the Draft Local Plan to provide a basis for ongoing discussions with relevant landowners, site promoters and stakeholders. It is important that the Council liaises closely on an ongoing basis with relevant landowners and promoters of the sites proposed for allocation within the Draft Local Plan, and with other stakeholders as required in order to demonstrate that the Local Plan is 'effective' and that the allocations in the Local Plan will be viable and deliverable, and therefore meet the 'tests of soundness' at Examination-in-Public. Consideration will be given to the use of planning performance agreements on the larger sites to help support the process as a project management tool to set a framework and timetable for masterplanning and other work which will need to be undertaken before the examination of the plan. The next meeting of the Developer Forums is scheduled for 24 February 2017.

## **Evidence to support the Local Plan**

Other evidence base work to support the development of the Pre-Submission Publication Plan is underway as follows:

1. Playing pitch, open space and indoor facilities study – this work is being undertaken by 4 Global to ensure that the Council has up to date information to inform the Infrastructure Delivery Plan
2. Transport modelling work – Essex County Council as Highways Authority will be appointing Ringway Jacobs to undertake further transport assessment work to undertake detailed modelling on all the sites proposed for allocation in the Draft Local Plan and to determine any necessary mitigation measures

3. Employment land supply update – this is in order to update the baseline supply information for B class uses which was last assessed across the District in 2010 in order to understand whether existing employment sites should continue to be allocated. Alongside this we will also be undertaking work to understand the need for further allocations in order to inform future site selection work.
4. Site selection work – further site selection work will be undertaken to assess the employment sites, new residential sites and take account of comments made during the consultation
5. Development of a detailed Infrastructure Delivery Plan to identify the infrastructure requirements and funding arrangements to support the proposed site allocations across the District

### **Local Plan Programme**

Officers are currently reviewing the Local Plan programme in conjunction with the timelines for the completion of the above work and if necessary the Local Development Scheme will be updated.

### **Garden town bid**

Members will be aware that the Council was successful (together with East Herts and Harlow Councils) in securing £500,000 Garden Towns funding from DCLG for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town to support the delivery of strategic sites in and around Harlow. This includes the four strategic sites to the South, West and East of Harlow in this District. A joint delivery team is being established with EFDC as the lead authority and the post of Project Director is currently being recruited.