

**Minutes of the Meeting of the LICENSING AND PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE
held on 12 July 2017**

PRESENT -

Councillor Graham Dudley (Chairman); Councillor David Wood (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Michael Arthur, Steve Bridger, Rob Geleit, Tina Mountain, Martin Olney, David Reeve, Humphrey Reynolds (as nominated substitute for Councillor Chris Frost) and Clive Smitheram (as nominated substitute for Councillor Alan Sursham)

In Attendance: Councillor Neil Dallen

Absent: Councillor Chris Frost and Councillor Alan Sursham

Officers present: Mark Berry (Head of Place Development), Simon Young (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), Rachel Jackson (Licensing, Grants and HIA Manager), Karol Jakubczyk (Planning Policy Manager), Rachael Thorold (Senior Planning Policy Officer) and Fiona Cotter (Democratic Services Manager)

1 QUESTION TIME

No questions were asked or had been submitted by members of the public.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by councillors regarding items on the Agenda.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman subject to noting that it was the Chairman of Ewell Village Residents' Association and not Epsom and Ewell Residents' Association who addressed the meeting. The published Minutes would be amended accordingly.

4 APPOINTMENT OF LICENSING PANEL CHAIRMEN

The Committee appointed Councillors Neil Dallen, Clive Smitheram, Jean Steer and Rob Geleit from the pool of Licensing Panel members to be available to Chair as required any Panels held during the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

5 CORPORATE PLAN: YEAR-END PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016 TO 2014 AND PROVISIONAL TARGETS FOR 2017 TO 2018

The Committee received and considered a report which provided a year-end update against its Key Priority Performance Targets for 2016 to 2017 as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and provisional targets for 2017 to 2018.

The report confirmed that out of a total of 9 targets for 2016/17, 7 had been achieved and 2 had not been achieved. An additional 3 indicators were regularly reported to the Committee as part of the performance monitoring report but for information purposes only. The report identified those actions which had not been achieved and the remedial action identified, were applicable as set out in the table below:

Not achieved	Actions identified
Keeping the Borough clean and green Complete the pre-submission consultation on a partial review of the Core Strategy.	A revised Local Plan Programme was approved on 13 July 2016. The recruitment process was successful. The pre-submission consultation on a partial review of the Core Strategy is a target for 2017/18 with a date set for 31 March 2018.
Supporting businesses and our local economy At least 90% of other planning applications determined within 8 weeks	At year-end it was 87% - slightly missing this target by 3%. However, this exceeded the national target of 80%.

In regards to the Committee's targets for 2017/18, it was noted that in the context of "supporting businesses and our local economy" the measure related to how the Council could support them through the planning process by timely determination of applications.

Accordingly, the Committee:

- (1) Considered the performance reported in Annexe 1 and did not identify any areas of concern;
- (2) Reviewed and agreed targets for 2017/18 as detailed in Annexe 2, and outlined in paragraph 4.1, of the report.

6 EPSOM & EWELL LOCAL PLAN PROGRAMME 2017

The Committee received and considered the draft Local Plan Programme which had been prepared to set the process and timetable for a partial review of the Epsom and Ewell Core Strategy.

The report stated that the primary purpose of the Local Plan Programme (or Local Development Scheme as it was previously known) was to set out the processes and timetable for the preparation and production of the Borough Council's Local Plan. The Council had always envisaged its programmes providing a three year project plan which sought to inform both the process and all of the interested parties and partners about how and when the Local Plan would be brought forward.

The timetable before the Committee was acknowledged as ambitious, with the intention of working towards Pre-Submission Consultation on a revised Core Strategy during the first half of 2018.

In response to concern about the speed of the process, the importance of quick and decisive action by the Council was stressed to mitigate the risk of government intervention and unsustainable speculative approaches for higher levels of housing growth from the development industry. Swift action was essential if the Borough Council wished to remain in control of the Local Plan's growth strategy.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that the programme set out in summary below should take effect as of 12 July 2017:

Key Stages	Dates
Issues and Options Consultation	September – November 2017
Consideration of consultation responses	December 2017
Pre-Submission Consultation	March 2018
Date of Submission to the Secretary of State	May 2018
Pre-Examination Meeting	September 2018
Public Hearing	Late 2018
Estimated Date for Adoption	December 2019

Documents	Publication Dates
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	October 2016
Green Belt Study Stage 1	February 2017
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	July 2017
Traveller Accommodation Assessment	July 2017
Constraints Study	July 2017
Green Belt Study Stage 2	November 2017

7 STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT

The Committee received and considered the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), a key evidence base document which sought to identify and account for future potential sources of housing land supply.

The Council was currently unable to demonstrate a five year supply of housing against the Objectively Assessed Housing Needs (OAHN) figure and, as such, the Core Strategy policy setting a housing target was considered out of date. However, by proactively planning for future growth, identifying where it should and should not go, the Council would place itself in a stronger position to resist unsustainable levels of growth in the wrong locations

The SHLAA sought to identify a five year supply of specific deliverable sites, a supply of developable sites for the next 6-10 years and, where possible, for 11-15 years. It was a starting point for the Council in its responsibility to prepare an up to date Local Plan to ensure that there was an adequate land supply to meet the needs of the Borough.

The report highlighted that whilst the sites identified by SHLAA's were technically considered to be deliverable or developable, this was based upon a subjective judgement. The identification of potential sites, buildings or areas in the SHLAA did not state or imply that the Council would necessarily grant planning permission for development. All planning applications would continue to be determined against the appropriate development plan and other relevant considerations. It was particularly important to recognise this in relation to opportunity sites, some of which were sensitive, especially those in Green Belt. It was stressed that in demonstrating a rigorous approach to its planning process, the Council should not seek to exclude such sites from the SHLAA. In response to a query regarding the Council's ability to meet its stated affordable housing target, whilst not directly related to the matter under consideration, it was confirmed that as part of the issues and options stage, the matter of affordability would be considered and viability would form part of that consideration.

Accordingly, the Committee, subject to Officers clarifying the Ward Boundaries in respect of sites 171 (Epsom and Ewell High School) and 563 (Land at Fairview Road) and including an entry for West Ewell in Table 3 (Summary of Housing Land Supply 2017-2032 by Ward) as appropriate:

- (1) Agreed to publication of the SHLAA;
- (2) Noted the findings of the SHLAA 2017 and the five year housing land supply position and housing trajectory against the Objectively Assessed Housing Needs (OAHN) figure;
- (3) Acknowledged that the outputs from the SHLAA would be used to inform the partial review of the Core Strategy.

8 TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT 2017

National planning policy required the Council to plan for the future accommodation needs of the local gypsy and traveller communities and the Committee considered a report in that regard.

A cross-party Working Group had been established and had contributed to the preparation and production of the technical evidence documents that the Council was required to produce in order to inform the Local Plan process. The Epsom and Ewell Traveller Accommodation Assessment (TAA) identified the future accommodation needs for the period between 2017 and 2032 in accordance with the latest national planning policy guidance. The accompanying Traveller Site Availability Assessment (TSAA) considered potential sources of supply that could be brought forward to meet future accommodation needs. It was noted that this was a separate exercise to the SHLAA as such sites were not considered as housing in planning law.

Accordingly, the Committee:

- (1) Considered the findings of the TAA, agreed to its publication and agreed that there was no current requirement for the emerging Local Plan to include a target for Traveller pitch provision;
- (2) Agreed that there was an outstanding accommodation need for non-travelling Travellers and that this need should be considered as a specialised component of the Borough's wider housing need;
- (3) Considered the outputs of the TSAA, agreed to its publication and agreed to it being used to inform the preparation of any future site allocation options;
- (4) Acknowledged and thanked the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group for their contribution towards the preparation and production of the evidence base documents.

9 CONSTRAINTS STUDY

The Committee received and considered a report regarding the Constraints Study.

National planning policy stated that Local Plans ought to meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change. This was unless there was any adverse impact in doing so which would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefit, when assessed against the policies within the National Planning Policy Framework or were specific policies in the Framework indicated development out to be restricted.

National planning practice guidance made it clear that whilst the establishment of development needs ought to be unbiased, relevant constraints – including environmental constraints – needed to be addressed when bringing evidence bases together and formulating policies.

The Primary Constraints as set out in the policy were noted:

- Undeveloped functional flood plain;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- Local Nature Reserves;
- Sites of Nature Conservation Importance
- Ancient Woodlands
- Registered Parks and Gardens

It was noted that designation as a Field in Trust (King George V or Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field) was not considered a primary constraint. In terms of protection, such sites were protected by land law not planning designation although, in reality, were unlikely to be considered as potential development sites. Designation as Green Belt was also not a primary constraint. However, whilst the exceptions as to when development in the green belt would not be considered inappropriate had been widened, national and local Green Belt policy still clearly regarded the construction of new buildings in the Green Belt as inappropriate.

Accordingly, the Committee:

- (1) Considered the Constraint Study and agreed to its publication;
- (2) Agreed with the definition of the Primary Constraints that would prevent development from taking place and where it would not be possible to mitigate impacts;
- (3) Noted that the study recommended that a further assessment be undertaken to consider how the constraints affect the land parcels identified within the Epsom and Ewell Green Belt Study 2017;
- (4) Agreed that the Study's inputs be used to inform the partial review of the Core Strategy.

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.36 pm

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM DUDLEY (CHAIRMAN)