



EPSOM AND EWELL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL held at the Council Chamber - Epsom Town Hall on 24 October 2023

PRESENT -

The Mayor (Councillor Rob Geleit); The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Steve Bridger); Councillors Arthur Abdulin, Chris Ames, John Beckett, Kate Chinn, Christine Cleveland, Hannah Dalton, Liz Frost, Bernice Froud, Tony Froud, Shanice Goldman, Christine Howells, Alison Kelly, Rachel King, James Lawrence, Robert Leach, Jan Mason, Steven McCormick, Julie Morris, Bernie Muir, Phil Neale, Peter O'Donovan, Kieran Persand, Humphrey Reynolds, Kim Spickett, Darren Talbot, Alan Williamson and Clive Woodbridge

Absent: Councillors Alex Coley, Neil Dallen, Julian Freeman, Graham Jones, Lucie McIntyre and Chris Watson

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Councillors regarding items on the agenda.

28 UNPAUSING THE LOCAL PLAN

The Council received a report presenting the recommendation of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee on 24 September 2023 to un-pause the Local Plan.

Councillor Steven McCormick **MOVED** the recommendations in the report.

An amendment to the recommendations was **MOVED** by Councillor Christine Howells and **SECONDED** by Councillor Steve Bridger.

The proposed amendment was as follows:

“The Council is asked to:

- (1) Note:
 - i. The work that has been undertaken in line with the decision by full Council on the 22 March 2023 to pause the Local Plan.
 - ii. That whilst the current version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires the Council to start with the Standard Method housing number, the NPPF also allows for a lower number to be used if that starting point is unachievable in light of local Greenbelt, Flooding or other specific constraints.
 - iii. That the current draft Local Plan has already set a precedent by using a much lower target. However, this target was only achieved under proposals to build on high-scoring Greenbelt land, and sites subject to flooding. The available evidence base clearly demonstrates constraining factors and provides strong reasons for excluding these sites from housing development plans.
- (2) Un-pause the Local Plan with immediate effect, subject to the LPPC preparing and approving guiding principles that must be followed in the preparation of the Regulation 19 Local Plan.

These guiding principles will support the preparation of a ‘sound’ plan, as defined in NPPF para 35, and promote a sustainable pattern of development as defined in NPPF para 11. They include the following components, which balance the various competing needs of the borough and can be fully supported by the available evidence and the NPPF.

- i. The housing target will be informed by the standard method. It will recognise the local constraints including, but not limited to, flooding, high performing Greenbelt land, heritage assets and irreplaceable habitats. It will provide the optimum level of housing achievable through the use of brownfield and previously developed Greenbelt land, as supported by the evidence base. This is in accordance with para 11 and section 13 of the NPPF, and can be achieved without exceeding 6 stories in height.
- ii. Significant levels of proposed housing should be truly affordable to local workers and those with assessed need.
- iii. The land availability assessment will be reviewed and updated in order to maximise the use of brownfield sites. This will include Council-owned land and mixed-use sites, in full compliance with government guidance, involving developers where necessary to identify potential solutions to apparent constraints.
- iv. The evidence base sets out the high performing nature of the major components of local Greenbelt land, the existence of significant flood risks and transport infrastructure challenges, and other compelling local

constraints. We will reflect these constraints in the Local Plan with the clear objective of avoiding redrawing Greenbelt boundaries.”

Councillor Steven McCormick (as proposer of the original motion) did not accept the proposed amendment, and accordingly the amendment was debated by the Council.

Following debate on the proposed amendment a recorded vote on the matter was requested by 8 members of the Council.

Upon being put the amendment was **LOST** with 12 votes for, 14 votes against and 3 abstentions as detailed below.

Amendment 1	
Councillor Rob Geleit	Against
Councillor Steve Bridger	For
Councillor Arthur Abdulin	Abstain
Councillor Chris Ames	Against
Councillor John Beckett	Against
Councillor Kate Chinn	Against
Councillor Christine Cleveland	For
Councillor Hannah Dalton	Against
Councillor Liz Frost	Against
Councillor Bernice Froud	For
Councillor Tony Froud	For
Councillor Shanice Goldman	For
Councillor Christine Howells	For
Councillor Alison Kelly	Abstain
Councillor Rachel King	Against
Councillor James Lawrence	For
Councillor Robert Leach	For
Councillor Jan Mason	For
Councillor Steven McCormick	Against
Councillor Julie Morris	Abstain
Councillor Bernie Muir	For
Councillor Phil Neale	Against
Councillor Peter O'Donovan	Against
Councillor Kieran Persand	For
Councillor Humphrey Reynolds	Against
Councillor Kim Spickett	For
Councillor Darren Talbot	Against
Councillor Alan Williamson	Against
Councillor Clive Woodbridge	Against
Rejected	

Following the resolution of the amendment, the substantive motion (which was the recommendations of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee) was debated and put to a vote.

Upon being put, the recommendations were **CARRIED** with 21 votes for, zero votes against and 8 abstentions as detailed below.

Unpausing the Local Plan (Motion)	
Councillor Rob Geleit	Abstain
Councillor Steve Bridger	For
Councillor Arthur Abdulin	For
Councillor Chris Ames	For
Councillor John Beckett	For
Councillor Kate Chinn	For
Councillor Christine Cleveland	For
Councillor Hannah Dalton	For
Councillor Liz Frost	For
Councillor Bernice Froud	For
Councillor Tony Froud	For
Councillor Shanice Goldman	Abstain
Councillor Christine Howells	Abstain
Councillor Alison Kelly	For
Councillor Rachel King	For
Councillor James Lawrence	For
Councillor Robert Leach	Abstain
Councillor Jan Mason	Abstain
Councillor Steven McCormick	For
Councillor Julie Morris	For
Councillor Bernie Muir	Abstain
Councillor Phil Neale	For
Councillor Peter O'Donovan	For
Councillor Kieran Persand	Abstain
Councillor Humphrey Reynolds	For
Councillor Kim Spickett	Abstain
Councillor Darren Talbot	For
Councillor Alan Williamson	For
Councillor Clive Woodbridge	For
Carried	

Accordingly the Council resolved to:

- (1) Un-pause the Local Plan with immediate effect.**
- (2) Note the work that has been undertaken since and in line with the decision by full Council on the 22 March 2023 to pause the Local Plan.**

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.52 pm

COUNCILLOR ROB GELEIT
MAYOR