

Appendix 1 – Draft Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s response to Surrey Place Ambition Consultation.

Dear Surrey County Council

Thank you for giving Epsom and Ewell Borough Council the opportunity to comment on the draft Surrey 2050 Place Ambition Strategy and Implementation Framework.

The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition provides a strategic framework for an integrated approach to facilitating good growth across Surrey that will be aligned to infrastructure provision and underpinned by an effective partnership working. This is consistent with the objectives of the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Four Year Plan and is therefore supported.

The key principles, challenges and actions identified for Strategic Opportunity Area 6 are supported, in particular the references to supporting the creative industries and employment opportunities as well as the 20-minute neighbourhood principles which align with the Council’s vision for improved active travel infrastructure as referenced in Epsom Future40. An additional challenge to be acknowledged is the pending cuts to Southwest Rail services to Epsom and Leatherhead and how this could impact on employment opportunities within the corridor.

The Council is committed to working in partnership with the relevant stakeholders to ensure the preparation of a final document. It will be necessary for officers to engage with the partners to explore further the rationale behind the identification of the Leatherhead to Epsom Corridor as a Strategic Opportunity Area (SOA) and the implications of this. In particular, it will be critical to explore any link the SOA has to meeting growth from outside of Epsom and Ewell Borough, because taking wider unmet housing needs is not an agreed position with Epsom and Ewell Borough Council.

The Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan and a key part of the evidence base will be the identification of suitable sites within our existing urban areas and along key infrastructure corridors for redevelopment. Existing employment sites such as Longmead will also need to be assessed for housing led redevelopment potential. The aim of this work is to identify sites and opportunities to contribute towards meeting the borough’s local housing requirements. The growth associated within these areas will therefore be a key focus for our Local Plan strategy and alignment will be needed between the Local Plan Strategy’s and the Surrey Place Ambition’s actions and priorities.

Unlocking key urban sites within Epsom will require partnership working, in particular around the delivery of necessary infrastructure. The Council would like to continue working in partnership with the County Council and the other key stakeholders to bring forward these sites and deliver much needed housing to meet local needs.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours faithfully,