

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 11 November 2020 at 6.00 pm in Remote Meeting

Present: Councillors E J Carter, R Mehta and C R Turley (Chair)

Also Present: Councillor D Wright (Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing, Transport and Infrastructure)

In Attendance: Gavin Ashford (Strategic Planning Team Leader), Katherine Kynaston (Director: Housing, Employment & Infrastructure), Anthea Lowe (Associate Director: Policy & Governance), and Kieran Robinson (Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer)

Apologies: Councillor T L B Janke and D Johnson

COMSC5 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr T Janke. Mr Johnson, Co-optee had sent his apologies and advised that he would be resigning as a co-opted member of the Committee.

COMSC6 Declarations of Interest

None.

COMSC7 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

COMSC8 Terms of Reference

Members received brief clarification of the proposed change to the Committee's terms of reference.

RESOLVED – that the terms of reference be approved.

COMSC9 Scrutiny Review of the Local Plan

The Committee received the presentation of the Director: Housing, Employment & Infrastructure. The presentation set out the details of the period of consultation for the Local Plan and the specific areas officers believed Scrutiny could have a valuable interest.

The initial public engagement period, 'the Issues and Options stage', would run until early January 2021, which would then be followed by the Preferred Options stage later that year. Officers were keen to work collaboratively with

Scrutiny during the engagement phases of the Local Plan. Two areas had been identified for the Committee to consider; the evolving role of the Plan in town & district centres and the role of the Plan in green spaces & biodiversity.

Officers provided Members with a short overview of the two options they had recommended to be scrutinised by the Committee. The Authority wished to encourage residents to shop local, by providing a mixed shopping environment that promoted health and wellbeing. The Council was also keen to balance growth with protection and enhancement of the natural environment, tackling climate change and improving public health.

The Local Plan offered the opportunity to identify issues and areas, formalise the Council's approach, and enhance its protection of the natural environment.

Members recognised the overlap in remits between this Committee and the Environment Scrutiny Committee on issues surrounding green spaces.

The Committee requested a copy of the presentation used by Officers.

COMSC10 Work Programme Review

Members heard from the Associate Director: Policy & Governance in relation to proposed updates to the Committee's work programme.

Following the previous presentation, the Chair advised that he would meet with the Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee to discuss next steps for the Committee's work on the Local Plan.

COMSC11 Chair's Update

None.

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm

Chairman:

Date: Wednesday, 31 March 2021