

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

13 JANUARY 2020

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PROGRESS UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on progress towards delivery of the Plan Review in relation to the Allocations and Development Management Policies and associate evidence base documents.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Committee considered a progress report on the evidence base supporting the Plan Review in relation to the Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document (DPD) in September 2020. A new Local Development Scheme was agreed to reflect the severe disruption by the flooding earlier in the year and by the imposition of the lockdown in response to the COVID 19 pandemic.

3.0 Current Progress

3.1 A number of key evidence base documents are being prepared to support the Plan Review and progress towards completing them is set out below.

- ***Open Space Strategy:*** The audit of open space and the Open Space Strategy has being prepared on behalf of the District Council by Knight Kavanagh Page. A report on this will be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.
- ***Housing Needs Assessment:*** The assessment of housing need in the District has been prepared by Arc4 Consulting, this will provides important up to date information about the type and tenure of new housing that will need to be built supporting proposed affordable housing policies in the Plan Review. It will also provide a framework for negotiation with developers on individual planning applications. The findings are being presented to Homes & Committees on 18 January 2020 and all Members will have the opportunity to attend a separate presentation about the report.

3.2 The conclusions of these evidence base documents will feed into an Allocations & Development Management Options Report alongside policies and allocations to meet need identified in the Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment. As reported at the last meeting alongside the preparation of a Pitch Delivery Strategy which looks at the capacity of current sites and how they may be able to accommodate additional capacity a 'Call for Sites' was proposed. This process was delayed by the Council's response to COVID19 as colleagues in the Communications Team were engaged in a number of urgent communications regarding changes to regulations. The 'Call' has now occurred and a limited response has been received. The Local Development Framework Task Group agreed that Officers should investigate the various site options as they stand and present the finding and a proposed strategy to them during January with a view to presenting a proposed Options Report to Economic Development Committee on 24 March 2021.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is being prepared alongside the Plan Review process to ensure that the impact on groups with protected characteristics of the proposals are considered as part of the policy making process. It is clearly extremely important that housing provision in line with identified need is identified for the Gypsy and Traveller community.

5.0 Digital Implications

5.1 There are no direct digital implications arising from this report.

6.0 Financial Implications – FIN20-21/2019

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

7.1 The Community Plan Objective “Accelerate the supply of new homes including associated facilities” includes a requirement to complete the Plan Review and identify sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the progress towards producing the Allocations & Development Management Options Report be noted.

Reason for Recommendation

To allow Members to note progress of the Plan Review.

Background Papers

Local Development Scheme September 2020.

For further information please contact Matthew Norton on Ext 5852.

Matt Lamb
Director – Planning & Regeneration