

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 11 JUNE 2024 FROM THE REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2024

RD11: CABINET REPORT: LOCAL PLAN UPDATE – PROCESS TO ADOPTION INCLUDING MAIN MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION

The Planning Policy Manager presented the Cabinet Report which set out the process to adoption, which included consulting on the Main Modifications required to ensure that the Local Plan was legally compliant and sound.

The Chair thanked the Planning Policy Manager for the report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

In response to a question from Councillor Lintern regarding solar farms, the Planning Policy Manager explained the examination was under the NPPF and there were policies within the Local Plan related to climate change mitigation and adaptation but there wasn't a specific policy for solar farms. National Policy currently set out the approach in this space. He also explained that the next would offer the opportunity to review out policies and explore such matters further as appropriate.

Councillor Crofts referred to the Gypsy and Traveller allocated sites and referred to tolerated sites. The Planning Policy Manager explained that it was a legal requirement to meet the needs of all of the communities and the consultation on the Borough Council's preferred sites and policies was now open. He encouraged Councillors and anyone who was interested to make representations through the consultation process.

The Chair referred to the five-year land supply for housing and Gypsy and Traveller sites. The Planning Policy Manager explained that there was currently a sufficient supply to meet both. With regard to Gypsy and Traveller sites this would be subject to the Hearing Sessions in September, following the current consultation, and the Inspectors could decide to remove or include sites. Any modifications would then be consulted on.

Councillor Blunt stressed the importance of ensuring a five-year land supply in the Borough.

In response to a question from Councillor Blunt it was confirmed that the accelerated timetable had been agreed jointly with officers and the Inspector and it was felt that it was achievable.

Councillor Kemp addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34 and the Planning Policy Manager confirmed that the West Winch Growth Area had been considered carefully.

Councillor Moriarty, Portfolio Holder for Development, thanked the Panel for their comments. He also thanked officers and the Planning Policy Manager for their hard work on bringing this forward. He reminded Members that they would still have the opportunity to make comments now on the Gypsy and Traveller consultation and when the main modifications went out for consultation later this month.

RESOLVED: That the Panel supported the recommendations to Cabinet, as set out below.

1. Cabinet notes and endorses the agreed accelerated timescale for the Local Plan through to adoption, as agreed with the Inspectors at the recent Examination hearings, and as set out in the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS), April 2024.

2. Cabinet notes and endorses the requirement to consult on the Main Modifications, which is legally required to ensure that the Local Plan can be made sound.