

Committee: Planning Policy Working Group

Agenda Item

Date: 22 February 2017

8

Title: Update on Action Plan from Planning
Advisory Service Report

Author: Richard Fox, Planning Policy Team Leader

Item for decision

Summary

1. An Action Plan following a report by the Planning Advisory Service was reported to Scrutiny Committee on 17 January 2017 and 7 February 2017.

Recommendations

2. That the Working Group note progress in implementing the Action Plan following the report by the Planning Advisory Service on the Local Plan Process.

Financial Implications

3. No new financial implications.

Background Papers

4. None

Impact

- 5.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Communication/Consultation | Further consultation is proposed by the PAS report. |
| Community Safety | N/A |
| Equalities | Further work on affordable housing and Travellers is proposed by the PAS report |
| Health and Safety | N/A |
| Human Rights/Legal Implications | Further work on affordable housing and Travellers is proposed by the PAS report |
| Sustainability | Further work on the Sustainability Appraisal is proposed by the PAS report |
| Ward-specific impacts | All |
| Workforce/Workplace | N/A |

Situation

6. An Action plan has been produced following a Planning Advisory Service review of the Local Plan Process. The action plan below reflects the recommendations of the 17 January 2017 Scrutiny Committee and emboldened updates were reported to Scrutiny Committee on 7 February 2017.

| Number | Report finding/action | Proposed response by UDC |
|--------|---|---|
| 1 | An additional Preferred Options (Draft Plan) stage and supporting evidence for consultation would reduce risk/inform plan. | <p>The Council will give consideration to a Preferred Options (Regulation 18) document as part of programme for consultation. Updated Local Plan project plan for the above to Feb PPWG. A formal revised LDS for March PPWG/Cabinet.</p> <p>UPDATE: A CLEAR NARRATIVE NOTING THE REGULATION 18 CONSULTATIONS WILL FORM PART OF THE FINAL UPDATED LDS. PRIOR TO THE LDS BEING FORMALISED, HOWEVER, PPWG ON 22 FEB WILL CONSIDER A PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR LOCAL PLAN INCORPORATING ADDITIONAL REG 18 CONSULTATION STAGE</p> |
| 2 | The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) needs to include preferred scenarios or weighting process. | <p>A further scoping exercise to be completed mid January on reasonable scenarios. Member workshop to consider outcome of draft scoping work on SA 1 February.</p> <p>Apply a weighting system to SA (assuming preferred options) to PPWG Summer 2017.</p> |
| 3 | Uncertainty exists regards the scale of housing and consequently its location, timing, viability, transport, and infrastructure impacts. Staying with 12,500 homes is a serious risk to soundness. It is suggested that UDC use 14,100 homes from latest government projections as a starting point. Method of apportionment in the SHMA that results in UDC provision needs to be clearly explained. | <p>Accept that limiting provision to 12,500 homes is a serious risk to soundness therefore we need to consider proceeding on the basis of testing 14,100 homes. Updated topic papers to be put to PPWG/Cabinet on location, timing, viability, transport, and infrastructure impacts by first quarter 2017.</p> <p>UPDATE: HMA CONSULTANTS TO PRODUCE A CLEAR EXPLANATION FOR SCALE OF HOUSING APPORTIONMENT – WITH CLEAR AND LOGICAL EXPLANATION OF THE CALCULATIONS ON THE HOUSING REQUIREMENT SHOWING WORKINGS</p> |

| | | BEHIND THE HEADLINE FIGURES. DUE IN MARCH. |
|---|---|--|
| 4 | Further government announcement on changes to planning policy in the Housing White Paper expected although outcome unknown. The Council needs to reflect on this when moving forward with the Plan. | To be closely monitored and reviewed as soon as available. UPDATE: OFFICERS WILL PROVIDE A TOPIC PAPER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE WHITE PAPER LIKELY TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY. |
| 5 | 2014 IDP out of date/requires more recent information. Transport study including Saffron Walden needs to be completed. | While the published Local Plan Viability Study October 2016 included infrastructure requirements of new settlements, the 2014 IDP needs to be updated with timeframe as above e.g. to reflect new evidence and planning considerations coming from the White Paper. Transport study reports will need to be published once complete as above. Both studies will be tested at Examination. UPDATE: OFFICERS WILL PROVIDE A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE IDP'S CONTENTS WITH TIMETABLE SHOWING INDICATIVE DELIVERY OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE ONCE COMPLETED IN MAY. |
| 6 | Updates of the Habitats Regulation Assessment, housing viability and employment studies to be done | The housing viability and employment study updates are underway. The target for completion will be dependent on a revised LDS. The HRA will be completed at draft plan stage. |
| 7 | Suggests that a topic approach to duty to co-operate would be more helpful than chronology. | To be collated by Troy Planning by March 2017. |
| 8 | Desirable to have specific section on Braintree duty-to-cooperate. | Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needs to be in place by Submission stage. UPDATE: TECHNICALLY, THE MOU ISN'T REQUIRED UNTIL THE LOCAL PLAN SUBMISSION DATE. HOWEVER, WE WILL WORK WITH BRAINTREE DC TO AGREE A SIGNED MOU AS SOON AS PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE. AS BRAINTREE IS SCHEDULED TO SUBMIT ITS PLAN IN JULY, THE MOU WOULD NEED TO BE AGREED |

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | BEFORE THEN. |
| 9 | Will need further criterion policy on traveller provision for those considered travellers who do not meet the government definition. | This is currently being considered. |

Risk Analysis

7.

| Risk | Likelihood | Impact | Mitigating actions |
|--|------------|---|---|
| That the Local Plan Process does not deliver a sound plan. | Low | Failure to deliver a sound plan would have a significant impact | Action Plan sets out a range of measures. |

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.