

Extraordinary Council, 30 April: Notice of an amendment as submitted by Councillor Caton

To remove the recommendation in the report in full and replace with the following wording:

The Council recognises the deeply held and divergent views of members across the Council, which reflect personal principles and the range of views in our community.

The Council believes that in whatever future form (revised or new), our District's Local Plan should:

- (1) Contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- (2) Support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of low/zero carbon housing of all types and costs, including truly affordable homes, required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and create a high quality, built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- (3) Contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, help to improve biodiversity, prudent use of natural resources, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy, with the potential to create surplus energy.

The Council, however, is disappointed by the invidious position the current administration has placed our community in. In particular, it is concerned by:

- (1) the distinct lack of public engagement and participation since January in the proposal to withdraw the current draft Local Plan;
- (2) the estimated £1m spent by the administration on the Plan in the period since they declined to withdraw the draft plan when the Inspectors offered them that opportunity in the summer of 2019 and the likely £3m cost of developing a new plan;
- (3) a lack of any indication of a revised spatial strategy before making a decision which indicates in broad terms where new housing will be allocated in any new plan and a readiness to rule out large Garden Communities as an option before any reconsideration; and
- (4) the inevitability that the development of a new plan will require a two-fold increase in required housing under central government regulations, and
- (5) that the district will increasingly be subjected to speculative applications for ad hoc developments without adequate infrastructure to address an even greater five-year land supply deficit.

Therefore, Council instructs the Cabinet Member for Planning and the Local Plan to refer consideration of the future direction of the Local Plan firstly to open and transparent discussion with Members and public participants within a forum such as the Planning Policy Working Group, or equivalent, before bringing back the matter to this Council with considered proposals.

Submitted on behalf of **Cllrs M Caton, A Dean, A Khan, J Loughlin and G Sell.**