

Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel  
2 November 2017

## WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

\* Reporting to Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL CABINET PLANNING AND PARKING PANEL held on Thursday 2 November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE.

PRESENT: Councillors S.Boulton (Chairman)  
M.Perkins (Vice-Chairman)

H.Bromley, N.Chapman, M.Cook (substituting for G.Hayes), M.Cowan, C.Gillett, M.Larkins (substituting for A.Chesterman), S.Markiewicz (substituting for D.Bennett), P.Shah

ALSO Tenants' Panel Representatives

PRESENT: D.Fuller and M.Kandekore

OFFICIALS Head of Planning (C Haigh)  
PRESENT: Principal Planner (B.Tudball)  
Governance Services Manager (G.R.Seal)

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### 17. SUBSTITUTIONS

The following substitutions of Panel Members had been made in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 19-22:-

Councillor M.Cook for G.Hayes  
Councillor M.Larkins for A.Chesterman  
Councillor S.Markiewicz for D.Bennett.

### 18. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.Bennett, A.Chesterman and G.Hayes.

### 19. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 20. HERTSMERE LOCAL PLAN ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Report of the Executive Director (Public Protection, Planning and Governance) setting out the proposed response to the Hertsmere Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation.

Hertsmere Borough Council had begun the process of preparing a new Local Plan. It was carrying out an “Issues and Options” consultation which sought views on how the Plan should approach providing for growth in homes, jobs and infrastructure that were required in the next fifteen years.

Whilst the consultation report did not contain draft policies or detailed proposals, there were a number of strategic issues of relevance to Welwyn Hatfield. As neighbouring Boroughs, Welwyn Hatfield and Hertsmere had a legal ‘Duty to Co-Operate’ on cross-boundary strategic issues.

The report identified the strategic issues which arose from the consultation and summarised the proposed response including detailing any actions which were considered necessary for the Council to discharge its legal duties.

The Principal Planner referred to an email from the North Mymms Green Belt Society which raised concerns that the proposed response did not include reference to the Green Belt. It was agreed that a section on the Green Belt would be included in the Council’s response to the consultation.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed response to Hertsmere Borough Council’s Issues and Options consultation as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

21. DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONSULTATION: PLANNING FOR THE RIGHT HOMES IN THE RIGHT  
PLACES

Report of the Executive Director (Public Protection, Planning and Governance) on the consultation document called “Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places” which sought to take forward proposals in the Housing White Paper.

These proposals included a standardised methodology for calculating housing need, a requirement to prepare a statement of common ground to aid the duty to co-operate and engage with adjoining authorities, criteria for increasing planning application fees by 20%, proposals relating to housing mix, Section 106 planning agreements, viability assessments and neighbourhood planning.

RESOLVED:

That the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Executive Member (Planning, Housing and Community) be authorised to submit the Council’s response by 9 November 2017 and circulate it to the Panel.

22. LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

Following completion of the Stage 2 hearing sessions of the process, the Head of Planning gave a verbal update to the Panel.

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The Inspector had advised the Council that the submitted Local Plan had passed the legal test but he believed that modifications were needed to make it sound, particularly in respect of meeting the objective need for 16,000 homes to 2033 in the Borough. It was now intended that Officers would carry out additional work in respect of urban capacity assumptions, modifications, green belt evidence and employment policies, that would ultimately be submitted to the Inspector as proposed modifications and subject to further public consultation and Council approval.

The Panel thanked the Planning Policy team for all their hard work to date on the Local Plan.

Meeting ended at 7.55 pm  
GS