

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

MONDAY 10 DECEMBER 2018

**PROPOSED SITE VISIT AND DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATION
FOR A NEW MOTOR MUSEUM AND LODGES AT ENSTONE AIRFIELD**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND STRATEGIC HOUSING

(Contact: Phil Shaw Tel: (01993) 861687)

1. PURPOSE

To confirm the need for a site visit in respect of the above application and to advise that it will be determined by the Development Control (DC) Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That a site visit be undertaken prior to determination of the application at a future meeting of this Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. Members of the Uplands Area Planning Sub-Committee will be aware that late last year an application was submitted which seeks planning permission to establish a new museum and associated residential lodges on land at and adjoining Enstone airfield. This proved to be very controversial and was the subject of an initial issues report to Uplands where Officers summarised the key objections received and the main planning issues as they perceived them. Some Members of Uplands had undertaken a Members' site visit but attendance at the site visit was lower than expected as some members found difficulty in finding the rendezvous point. The Officer report was in the event deferred at the request of the applicants prior to it being discussed at the meeting and since that time the applicants have instructed Sir Norman Foster and Assoc as the main architectural practice who in turn have undertaken a major revision of the scheme such that it is now very different from the initial submission. The initial application has been withdrawn and a new one incorporating the changes has been tabled

3.2. Given the profile of the application, the extent of objections raised last time/anticipated and the fact that if approved it would be a museum of international standing and as such carries with it District wide tourism and economic development consequences, Officers have exercised the proviso in the Scheme of Delegation that the application should be referred to the Development Control Committee for decision.

4. THE NEED FOR A SITE VISIT

The application proposes considerable built form in a plateau top location and as such the potential visual impacts across a wide area need to be fully assessed and considered. Additionally many local residents are concerned at the adequacy of the road network to safely accommodate the traffic that could be generated. A site visit would aid Members appreciation of these key issues before the application was determined. The scheme is substantially different from the previous submission and thus it is considered that even those Members who did attend the last site visit would benefit from reviewing the changes made.

5. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

Members could decide not to undertake a site visit but given the importance of the visual and highway issues this is not recommended.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report.

7. RISKS

None identified.

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Background Papers:

None