

ANNEX A

Local Plan Cross Party Member Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference

Background

The Council has committed to producing a new Local Plan covering the period up to 2041.

The new plan is currently at the Regulation 18 ‘plan preparation’ stage during which the scope of the plan is determined and different options and alternatives considered and tested with a view to identifying a preferred approach.

Initial consultation took place in the autumn last year with further consultation proposed for late Summer 2023.

Taking account of this and emerging technical evidence, Officers will then work up a series of more detailed preferred policy approaches with a view to further consultation later in the year.

To ensure that the views of Members are taken fully into account during this formative stage, it is proposed that a new Local Plan Member Working Group be established.

Key Purpose

The group will meet to discuss the emerging Local Plan as it takes shape. This will include the consideration of technical supporting evidence as it is produced and the development of plan content and policies.

The group will provide input and a steer directly to the Planning Policy Manager and the Executive Member for Planning and Sustainable Development.

The Local Plan Member working group will be augmented with all Member briefings/workshops at appropriate junctures which provide a further forum for discussion on key issues arising.

Meetings

Meetings of the working group will take place regularly (e.g. every 8 weeks or more frequently as required) from summer 2023 to summer 2024.

Membership

The Group will comprise members of all political groups and the quorum for a meeting to take place will be any three members:

2 Liberal Democrat

2 Conservative

1 Labour

1 Green

The Group will be Chaired by the Executive Member for Planning and Sustainable Development.

Officer Support

The Group will primarily be supported by the Council's Planning Policy Manager.

Democratic Services will provide administrative and governance support to the Group.

Suggested Areas of Focus

In line with the emerging Local Plan, it is proposed that the Working Group will focus on the following main areas:

1. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency
2. Healthy, safe, strong and inclusive communities
3. An enhanced natural and built environment
4. Attractive, accessible and thriving places
5. Meeting the housing needs of all
6. A vibrant, resilient and diverse local economy