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RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

To be held as a Virtual Meeting on Wednesday, 22nd September, 2021 at 7.00 pm

To:

Cllr J.B. Canty (Chairman) Cllr P.I.C. Crerar (Vice-Chairman) Cllr P.J. Cullum (Vice-Chairman)

> Cllr Gaynor Austin Cllr Jessica Auton Cllr Sophia Choudhary Cllr Michael Hope Cllr Prabesh KC Cllr Mara Makunura Cllr Sophie Porter Cllr M.J. Roberts

Standing Deputies:

Cllr Christine Guinness Cllr Jacqui Vosper

> Enquiries regarding this agenda should be referred to the Administrator, Adele Taylor, Democracy and Community, Tel. (01252) 398831, Email. adele.taylor@rushmoor.gov.uk.

AGENDA

1. **MINUTES –** (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th July 2021 (copy attached).

2. STRATEGIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK – (Pages 7 - 10)

To receive a briefing paper prepared by Tim Mills, Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing and Lee McQuade, Economy and Growth Manager, giving an overview of the Council's emerging Strategic Economic Framework. The purpose is to provide background to the document and to obtain Member's views on the consultation process and principles, as set out in the briefing paper.

3. BUSINESS PLAN –

The Assistant Chief Executive to report on the proposed process and timeline for the preparation of the Council's Business Plan for 2022/23. The Board will be asked for views on the process, particularly around engagement and format, as the Business Plan is developed.

This item will be followed by an informal workshop after the conclusion of the formal meeting.

4. **WORK PLAN –** (Pages 11 - 18)

To discuss the Policy and Projects Advisory Board Work Plan (copy attached).

MEETING REPRESENTATION

Members of the public may ask to speak at the meeting on any of the items on the agenda by writing to the Panel Administrator at the Council Offices, Farnborough by 5.00 pm two working days prior to the meeting.

Applications for items to be considered for the next meeting must be received in writing to the Panel Administrator fifteen working days prior to the meeting.

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Virtual meeting held on Wednesday, 14th July, 2021 at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr J.B. Canty (Chairman) Cllr P.I.C. Crerar (Vice-Chairman) Cllr P.J. Cullum (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Gaynor Austin Cllr Jessica Auton Cllr Sophia Choudhary Cllr Christine Guinness - as substitute Cllr Michael Hope Cllr Prabesh KC Cllr Mara Makunura Cllr M.J. Roberts

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Sophie Porter.

8. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

9. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - BALANCING THE BUDGET CONSULTATION - UPDATE

The Board welcomed Rachel Barker, Assistant Chief Executive, who was in attendance to report on the Council's interim response to the Hampshire County Council (HCC) consultation on Balancing the Budget.

The proposed response from the Council would include the following:

- The Council supported HCC in making a case to central government for an improved funding settlement
- Support would be given to an increase in commercial activity by the County Council
- Emphasis would be given to the current work being undertaken by the Council on its own savings programme/budget review and note that it would not necessarily be looking to fund or carry out activities previously delivered by HCC
- The suggested approach to rely on other public sector agencies to provide services would be opposed
- Suggest that early engagement should be held with district and borough councils, to ensure local circumstances and differences are understood as part of the process

• Request that a cautious approach be taken where it had been assumed that voluntary and community sector organisations would address needs in the future

The Board was then apprised of the response to service proposals within the consultation, these included:

- Countryside services and outdoor centres the Council supported exploring further commercialisation of facilities such as Runways End, but would not wish to see costs transferred to other public sector bodies.
- Breaks for carers of disabled children a reduction in respite care could prove to be a false economy, ultimately putting more pressure on wider related service providers
- Adult social care services the proposal to stop all grants to voluntary organisations would be opposed by the Council at this time
- Public health The Council would be responding to the detailed consultation on public health which was also out for consultation
- School crossing patrols cutting this service could reduce safety and increase car use directly impacting the response to climate change
- Waste early engagement with district and borough councils would be suggested to understand the impacts of proposed restrictions at Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Transport it was unclear where these savings could be sought in public transport costs and further information would be required to understand this better.

Ms Barker advised on a question within the consultation regarding "local government reorganisation", and it was noted that the Council, in line with HCC, were not in favour of such a change and were supportive of the current two tier arrangements. The Council would welcome further discussions with HCC to reduce duplication of costs and services, increase devolved decision making and funding, and pursue further enhanced and joint working opportunities. Any reviews of local government should, ideally, wait until the Levelling Up White Paper was released, and any proposals should be developed in partnership between all layers of local government to ensure the best outcomes for residents were achieved.

The Board discussed the presentation and in particular, capacity building within the voluntary sector and school crossing patrols being essential in most areas to ensure safety and encourage independence within young people. Increasing commercialisation was also discussed and where this could be implemented.

It was noted that Informal Cabinet would review the response at its meeting on 15th July, therefore, should Members have any further comments these should be shared with Ms Barker before the meeting. The response would then be finalised and submitted by the 18th July, 2021 deadline.

10. ALDERSHOT TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY

The Board welcomed Tim Mills, Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing who was in attendance to give a presentation on the draft Interim Aldershot Town

Centre Strategy. The context to the strategy had come from various sources, these included the Aldershot Town Centre Prospectus SPD - adopted in 2016, the community consultation ran by the Aldershot Civic Society in 2020, the High Streets Task Force's reports and support and the Transition and Recovery Plan. The impacts of the pandemic and the acceleration in the demise of the high street had also had an influence.

The Interim Strategy had provided a platform to update the vision for Aldershot and thought more about communicating and developing the idea of what the town could be moving forward. Themes had been updated, based on what had been achieved since 2016 when the Aldershot Town Centre Prospectus SPD was adopted and what still needed to be achieved.

The vision for the town was proposed as a place where people felt at home and had made their homes. A town where people felt welcome and where families wanted to be. A thriving town centre that provided a range of services that were accessible to all and offered an experience to all demographics from the local community and visitors. A mix of independent and high street shops would provide employment opportunities and space to start new businesses and the Victorian and military heritage and diverse community within Aldershot, would be celebrated, maintained and developed.

Through work with the Aldershot Task Force, High Street Task Force, developers, property owners and the Civic Society, engagement with the community would be undertaken on the vision to develop a shared communications plan and ongoing campaign to tell the story of the "new Aldershot".

The Board noted what was still to be done since the SPD had been adopted in 2016. It was advised that the SPD had been separated into themes, which had items outstanding, these included:

- Theme 1- Revitalised and Diverse Town Centre Offer
 - Ensuring the correct mix of commercial floor space usage
 - Masterplanning forward thinking for other areas in the town such as Windsor Way
- Theme 2 Town Centre Living
 - Masterplanning for Princes Hall/Police Station mixed use
 - Opportunities for quality residential conversions
- Theme 3 Accessible and Connected Town Centre with an Improved Public Realm
 - Connectivity study to assess accessibility/parking study
 - Public Realm "Spaces make Places" ensuring spaces/areas are right for the town and its residents
- Theme 4 An Improved Cultural Offer
 - Development of the Cultural Strategy
 - Re-introduction of events programme

- Theme 5 Affirming the Town's Heritage
 - Implementation of heritage trials
 - Shopfront improvements to emphasise Victorian heritage

The Board noted the next steps which would be followed by engagement with Informal Cabinet and public consultation around community and public realm. The Board were asked to consider the themes and to do lists and how these fitted into the Council's priorities.

The Board discussed the presentation and the proposed Strategy and identified a number of areas that it was felt were important and should be incorporated, these included:

- Build on the strengths of the leisure offer identify where there were gaps locally and consider opportunities in particular at the Princes Hall
- Consideration be given to how the towns diverse culture could be promoted moving forward, not just it's heritage
- How housing developments could improve equity in jobs, income and health
- Implementation of the Strategy and mitigation of risk
- No obvious link to the Climate Change Strategy should be at the heart of the document
- Provision of lighting consideration to light pollution and safety/perception of safety
- Improved connectivity with the Wellesley development
- Connectivity and redevelopment of the railway station

The points raised would be considered and where appropriate, built into the Strategy as it developed. In response to a query, it was noted that the consultation period would expect to run in the autumn.

The Board **ENDORSED** the proposed Strategy and thanked Mr. Mills for his presentation.

11. SOUTHWOOD COUNTRY PARK INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Board welcomed Anna Lucas, Principal Planning Officer who was in attendance to present on the Southwood Country Park Interim Management Plan.

It was advised that the site was designated a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), the purpose of which was to divert people away from visiting Special Protection Areas (SPA). The site should consist of a number of criteria which could include, open areas and areas of dense scattered trees and shrubs, open water, circular walks, signposting and site information.

It was noted that the site had been developed from its original use as a golf course during phase 1 and temporary management of the site had been undertaken by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP). Phase 2 proposed to secure the full potential of the site, which could be achieved through a soft marketing testing exercise and arrangements put in place for the longer-term management of the site. Once this was in place a ten year plan would be prepared.

The Interim Management Plan 2021-23 covered phase 2 of the work, management of the habitat complex and enhancements to attract different wildlife not already located on the site, maintenance and monitoring and a schedule of work. Progress on phase 2 was noted, this included work on the Southwood and Cove Brook Floodplain Improvement Project, options and designs for the proposed visitor centre and café and a pedestrian crossing which was currently subject to some technical work and confirmation from HCC regarding requirements.

The Board was apprised of the details of the habitat management plan. This included mowing regimes, creation of a wetland habitat, thinning of the canopy over the waterways, planting of copses and re-establishing historic hedgerows, health and safety work on trees and extensive restoration works on the river, stream and ditch network.

The native species found on the site were outlined, including bats, badgers, reptiles, 36 species of bird, amphibians and invertebrates. A number of invasive non-indigenous species were also present on the site and these would be dealt with appropriately.

Access and Infrastructure to the site was a key part of the Plan. Provision included parking facilities, clear signage, all weather paths, fencing and gates, picnic benches and seating, installation of a trim trail/nature trail and deconstruction of the golf course infrastructure.

The Board was advised of the timeline for the Management Plan. It was proposed that consultation on the Interim Plan would be undertaken in September, 2021, with a view to appoint a permanent SANG operator in April 2022. The ten year plan would then be developed in conjunction with the successful party.

The Board discussed the Interim Plan and raised a number of points, including:

- The Café/Visitors Centre It was advised that this would not be included in the Plan but would be developed in parallel to it. The café would be operated on a lease basis and consideration would be given to similar offers in the local area to ensure best practice. It was felt important to make the most from the facility and offer multiple uses and ensure best value for money. Access for volunteers would also need to be considered.
- Funding it was noted that developers' contributions would make up some of the funding to run the site but other funding would be sought and the Environment Agency had provided £45,000 towards some of the proposed developments.
- Pedestrian Crossing it was noted that the crossing would be signal operated.

- Wheelchair access the need to ensure access for all would be reflected in the Plan.
- Connectivity It was noted that work was underway to connect the Southwood Country Park and Southwood Woodland. However, connectivity with sites further afield would be dealt with through the forthcoming Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan and the Green Infrastructure Strategy which were in their development stages.

The Board **ENDORSED** the Southwood Country Park Interim Management Plan and thanked Ms Lucas for her presentation. It was also noted that, should Members have any further comments or questions relating to the Plan, these should be referred to Ms Lucas or Mr. Mills.

12. WORK PLAN

The Board **NOTED** the current Work Plan and were advised of an in person workshop that would be taking place on September 9th, 2021, on the civic element of the Farnborough Civic Hub development.

The meeting closed at 9.21 pm.

CLLR J.B. CANTY (CHAIRMAN)

PPAB - Strategic Economic Framework

Summary

The Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) is a strategy which seeks to encourage economic recovery and growth in the borough in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic. It sets out what the council will do, how the council will work with partners and what outcomes the council are seeking to achieve.

Consultation and next steps

The session with PPAB is the start of the consultation process on the SEF. The consultation will seek to engage with a wide range of businesses, public sector partners and other stakeholders.

Whilst a document has been drafted and shared with PPAB we will not yet be sending out the full document. This will allow us the flexibility to further refine the document in response to comments. Further changes might also be needed to reflect a particularly uncertain policy, economic and social context, this includes:

- The publication of the Leveling Up White Paper, which is likely to change the role and functions of EM3 LEP and the county council. Both bodies are key delivery partners;
- The publication of the Government's Net Zero Strategy which is likely to impact on the SEF's clean growth priorities;
- Linked to the above, announcements in the Autumn Budget (27 October 2021) on access to the Shared Prosperity Fund, and/ or other funding that might help to promote recovery and growth in the borough;
- Changes in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic/ social impacts thereof.
- We are also aiming to finalise the SEF alongside the development of the Council's Business Plan.

Consultation scope

Aimed at businesses and partners we will use all the avenues available to us to engage businesses and stakeholders on the SEF. We will base this on a series of questions on the sections of the document.

Engagement with businesses, partners and business representative groups will be wide-ranging and include key bodies such the Chambers of Commerce, FSB, the EM3 LEP and neighbouring boroughs. Where relevant we will work with Members to ensure we reach all relevant consultees.

Initially we will be seeking views on the following:

- Evidence base partners will be invited to test the evidence presented and highlight additional data or analysis that might help to develop our understanding of the Rushmoor economy;
- The vision views will be sought on the statements presented;
- Four strategic pillars we will be seeking views on whether all the key aspects of economic growth are represented here;

- Driving forces we want to ensure that these points capture the main influences on the local economy.
- Key outcomes ten key outcomes linked to the strategic pillars.

Strategic Economic Framework overview

Purpose

The purpose of the document is to:

- provide a consistent vision with clear objectives and priorities;
- set out how the priorities will be translated into a framework for change together with the actions needed over the next three years, including recovery from the economic effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, particularly its impacts on town centres, businesses and the labour market;
- identify mechanisms for delivery, including our own role and responsibilities alongside the responsibilities of the business community and our public partners; and
- establish how the council will measure and evaluate outcomes.

Economic issues and challenges

This section sets out the longer-term economic situation (pre-Coronavirus) but also considers the recent impacts of the pandemic on the local economy. On the latter there remains a very large degree of uncertainty. This includes the impact of the withdrawal of government intervention both in the labour market (specifically furlough) and in supporting businesses (various business grants).

Vision

The SEF sets out an ambitious vision for the borough. This vision aligns with current government policy on local economic growth, including the National Industrial Strategy and might need to change in the context of national policy changes (see above).

The vision will be met through four 'strategic pillars' which represent the main aspects of economic development in Rushmoor. These are:

- Business Environment Support, Retention, Innovation and Inward Investment;
- Skills, Inclusion and Prosperity;
- Transport Accessibility and Communications Infrastructure;
- Place Our Centres, Sites and Workspaces.

Driving forces and key outcomes

The SEF sets out the 'driving forces' which will impact local economic growth and our approach. These include recovery from the economic effects of Coronavirus, increasing economic inclusion and prosperity, moving to a clean growth economy, supporting the foundation economy, protecting and enhancing sector clusters, matching skills needs and maximising partnerships and collaboration. Linked to the driving forces are a series of key target outcomes which align to the actions in the following section.

Action Plan

Organised around the four strategic pillars these are intended to provide a framework for specific projects and activity. There are thirty actions and for each a rationale has been included.

Linked to the actions a series of success measures have been set out which will enable us to monitor performance (see below).

These actions will be reviewed over the course of the consultation.

Appendices

To keep the document as concise as possible several sections have been included as appendices. This includes:

- Appendix A: Supporting strategies and policies an overview of relevant economic strategy and policy influences;
- Appendix B: Performance, successes, issues and challenges this sets out data (where available) reflecting the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic which itself builds on an economic profile of the borough.
- Appendix C: Leadership, collaboration and partnership this sets out the importance of working in partnership and includes a summary of where specific partners might support each action.
- Appendix D: Performance management and review an overview of how performance will be monitored.

Performance monitoring

Performance against the success measures and key target outcomes will be reported annually. In addition to this there will be several key economic indicators which we will monitor on an ongoing basis (as and when data is updated). These indicators will include claimant count, youth unemployment, vacancy rates and others, with the exact indicators to be confirmed over the consultation period.

End.

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POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD WORK PLAN

The purpose of the work plan is to plan, manage and co-ordinate the ongoing activity and progress of the Council's Policy and Project Advisory Board, incorporating policy development work carried out through working groups.

GROUP	MEMBERSHIP 2021/22	CURRENT POSITION	CONTACT
Elections Group	Cllrs P.I.C. Crerar (as Vice-Chair of PPAB), A.R. Newell (Cabinet Member with responsibility for electoral issues) Sue Carter (Chairman of Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee), C.J. Stewart, T.D. Bridgeman and K. Dibble Chairman: Cllr C.J. Stewart	The Group met on 14th June at which discussions were held on the May 2021 Elections, national and local developments in relation to the forthcoming Parliamentary Boundary Review and Canvass arrangements. The next meeting was scheduled for 11th October, 2021.	Andrew Colver Head of Democracy and Community Tel: (01252) 398820 <u>andrew.colver@rushmoor.gov.uk</u>

(A) CURRENT WORKING GROUPS APPOINTED BY THE POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

GROUP	MEMBERSHIP 2021/22	CURRENT POSITION	CONTACT
Strategic Housing and Local Plan Group To steer the development of the Local Plan and monitor updates to the Housing and Homelessness Strategy	Cllrs P.I.C. Crerar (As V- C of PPAB), D.E. Clifford (Leader of the Council), Marina Munro (Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Local Plan), C.J. Stewart (Chair of Development Management Committee) P.J Cullum, Sophie Porter and M.J. Roberts Chairman:	Update - Please see ANNEX A	Tim Mills Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing Tel: (01252) 398790 <u>tim.mills@rushmoor.gov.uk</u> Anna Lucas Principal Planning Officer Zoe Paine Strategy and Enabling Manager (Housing)
Transformation Task and Finish Group (formerly Rushmoor 2020 Modernisation and Improvement Programme)	Cllrs J.B. Canty (Chair of PPAB), K.H. Muschamp (as Cabinet Member with responsibility for this area of work), Sophia Choudhary, P.J. Cullum, Gaynor Austin and Sophie Porter Chairman: Cllr Canty	 The Group met on 20th July, 2021 and discussed the following items: ICE Programme New Customer Operating Model (Recovery and Rethinking the Workplace) Project 10 (New Ways of Working) Project 9 (Digital Services – Council Website) The "Love Rushmoor" App The next meeting is scheduled for 6th October, 2021. 	Karen Edwards Executive Director Tel: (01252) 398800 <u>karen.edwards@rushmoor.gov.uk</u>

(B) OTHER ISSUES/MATTERS FOR THE WORK PROGRAMME

ISSUE	DETAILS	CONTACT DETAILS	
REGENERATION			
Aldershot Town Centre Strategy	At its meeting in July, 2021 the Board reviewed the Interim Strategy for Aldershot Town Centre. A number of themes had been revised in light of the pandemic and a number of areas were identified that it was felt should be incorporated into the Strategy. A Consultation period was expected to be undertaken in the Autumn.	Tim Mills Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing Tel: (01252) 398790 <u>tim.mills@rushmoor.gov.uk</u>	
Farnborough Civic Hub	At the meeting in June, 2021 the Board received a presentation on the vision for the Farnborough Civic Hub. A workshop was held on 9th September at which Members toured the current site and reviewed NWOW areas	Karen Edwards Executive Director Tel: (01252) 398800 <u>karen.edwards@rushmoor.gov.uk</u>	
ENVIRONMENTAL SUST	AINABILITY		
Byelaws Review – Aldershot and District Military Lands	Pending publication of a consultation on the Byelaws Review of Aldershot and District Military Lands, the Chairman has requested that this issue be placed on the work programme.		
Southwood Country Park Interim Management Plan	At its meeting in July the Board reviewed the Interim Management Plan for the Southwood Country Park. The Plan was expected to be in place for two years, during Phase 2 of the works to be undertaken, this included the Visitors Centre/Café and appointment of a SANG operator. The interim plan would be followed by a ten year plan.	Tim Mills Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing Tel: (01252) 398790 <u>tim.mills@rushmoor.gov.uk</u>	

DEPRIVATION HEALTH AND WELLBEING			
Deprivation and Wellbeing Strategy	 Position at March 2021 – This strategy would be discussed at the next meeting of the Joint OSC/PPAB Chairs meeting Discussions to include Equality and Diversity Action Plan and Back Lives Matter 	Andrew Colver Head of Democracy and Community Tel: (01252) 398820 andrew.colver@rushmoor.gov.uk	
Frimley Integrated Care System (ICS)/Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group	At its meeting in June, 2021 the Board met with representatives from the Frimley ICS/CCG. Proposals for the future of the NHS were discussed following a white paper issued by central government and local health priorities.	Karen Edwards Executive Director Tel: (01252) 398800 <u>karen.edwards@rushmoor.gov.uk</u>	
(CCG)	Following the meeting in June, 2021 the Board noted that a decision had been made to retain the current Frimley ICS. Frimley ICS representatives would be invited to a future meeting to discuss how the districts views would be represented and translated following the decision.		

	OTHER MATTERS	
Leisure Facilities and Contracts	In March 2021, a decision was taken to not re-establish the Leisure Facilities and Contracts Task and Finish Group until required. It was proposed that initial work could involve the Board as a whole and a Task and Finish Group established for specific work later down the line.	James Duggin Head of Operational Services Tel: (01252) 398543 james.duggin@rushmoor.gov.uk
Black Lives Matter	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Update – RB provided an update on progress. The Equalities Impact Statement would be shared with Members and it was noted that the Customer Satisfaction survey was currently open to the public.	Rachel Barker, Assistant Chief Executive <u>rachel.barker@rushmoor.gov.uk</u>

POLICY AND PROJECTS ADVISORY BOARD

AGENDA PLANNING – 2021-2022

22 September 2021	 Strategic Economic Framework Strategic Context of the Business Plan
24 November 2021	Housing and Homelessness Strategy?
26 January 2022	Housing and Homelessness Strategy?
23 March 2022	
Items to be considered	 Investment Strategy Cultural Strategy - Autumn Building Control Changes Carbon Footprint Frimley ICS

PROGRESS GROUP MEETINGS

Membership: Cllrs Jess Auton, J.B. Canty (Chairman), P.I.C. Crerar (Vice-Chairman), P.J. Cullum, Sophie Porter and M.J. Roberts.

	Balancing the Budget (HCC Consultation)	The response to the initial consultation had been submitted following a meeting with the Cabinet. Work was now underway to respond to the Public Health element of the consultation which was due by 9th August, 2021.	
	Southwood Country Park	Discussions were underway to determine how consultations would be managed considering C19 impacts.	
28 July 2021	Strategic Economic Framework	The Board noted the content and timescales and agreed that this would be an item on the agenda for September.	
	Business Plan Development	An item on this subject would be brought to the September meeting.	
	Farnborough Civic Hub - Workshop	The workshop was planned for 9th September, 2021.	
	Social Mobility (MR)	This item would be referred to AC/RB to be considered during policy development.	
5 October 2021	Housing and Homelessness Strategy	Project Plan to PG	
13 December 2021			
9 February 2022			
29 March 2022			
FUTURE MEETINGS	 Items carried forward from 2020/21, for consideration: Litter Enforcement Strategy Medium Term Financial Strategy/Budget Strategy Fair Funding consultation Rushmoor Development Partnership – Site Appraisals Income Crisis – policy development Commercial Investment Strategy 		

ANNEX A

Strategic Housing and Local Plan Group - Update

The Strategic Housing and Local Plan Group allows back bench members, to help shape planning and housing strategy and policy in discussion the with the Portfolio Holder for Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing and the Chairman of Development Management Committee. The engagement of these leading members is vital to ensure that proposals are aligned with the Council's overall plans and can achieve support. The group enables exchange of information, debate and consultation on national and local strategic planning and housing policy with the Head of Planning, Economy and Strategic Housing and the Corporate Planning Manager and other, specialist officers. The extent of the work and its time requirements particularly during the development of the Local Plan means that a separate group solely focused on these matters is essential.

The last meeting was held on 19th of July and included an update on First Homes, the discussion of a draft Cabinet Report relating to the second phase on the Conservation Area Review Programme and four draft Conservation Area Appraisals for comment. The Group will next be meeting on 13th September where they will discuss the Housing and Homelessness Strategy, emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy, the potential to introduce a new Article 4 direction revoking a specific permitted development right and a government consultation on permitted development rights.

The following provides an indicative forward programme for the group up until the end of the financial year. Assumptions have been made in relation to when key bits of legislation will be enacted:

December 2021

- Housing Strategy (2022-2027) proposed approach
- Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Briefing on Environment Bill and any implications
- Interim Biodiversity Guidance
- Consultation responses received on the draft Conservation Area Appraisals

March 2022:

- Draft Housing Strategy (2022-27)
- Planning Bill Implications
- Local Plan Review / Design Codes
- Playing Pitch Strategy
- Feedback received during consultation on the Green Infrastructure Strategy