

# **POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD**

**25 SEPTEMBER 2019**

## **UPDATE FROM SUB-GROUPS**

### **1. Progress Group**

- 1.1. The Progress Group are responsible for co-ordinating and planning the Board's overall work programme, developing agendas for future Board meetings, tracking progress on groups appointed by the Board, and preparing terms of reference, expected outcomes and timescales as appropriate for new Groups appointed by the Board.
- 1.2. The Progress Group meet between Board meetings and discuss items to include on the agenda. The strategy for future investment in relation to playgrounds within the Borough has dominated the agenda to date however other issues raised as possible agenda items include:
  - Rent Relief Policy for charitable/sporting organisations - item on agenda on the approach to provide an opportunity for the Advisory Board to put forward views
  - Index of Multiple Deprivation Data – Council's policy approach – item to be brought to a future meeting once the recast of data is received by the Council
- 1.3. Issues that will be covered by the Progress Group at future meetings, and are included on the work programme, are the Fair Funding consultation and Rushmoor Development Partnership Business Plan. Other consultation documents will be reviewed by the Progress Group and brought to the Board as they arise during the year, if required.

### **2. Strategic Housing and Local Plan Group**

#### **Update on Rowhill and Southwood Management Plans**

- 2.1. The Rowhill Copse Nature Reserve and Southwood Woodlands habitat and protected species surveys are progressing on site with most of the visits now complete. Some further work on the breeding bird, invertebrate and amphibian surveys will need to be completed in April and May next year as we were some way into the surveying season when the work was commissioned. However, this is not considered essential to prepare the management plans. It is expected that the reports detailing the condition of the habitats and the protected species present will be received by the end of September beginning of October, work will then commence on the management plans. It is anticipated that the management plans should be ready for consideration by Cabinet in early 2020 as planned.

#### **Conservation Area Reviews**

- 2.2. PPAB considered Conservation Area Reviews at its meeting on 3 April (same report that went to SHLPG on 27 March). At that stage, we intended to take the same report to Cabinet but ELT/CLT decided this was not necessary. Feedback to continue was positive and the scoping exercise has been completed, with a view to carrying out the reviews in house over the next few years.
- 2.3. A Member Workshop was held on 4 July, to which all members were invited.

2.4. A report was presented to SHLPG in August, providing feedback on Member Workshop and setting out a way forward which is summarised below.

- 16 members attended workshop and 6 responded to follow-up questionnaire
- Based on member feedback, we are proceeding with Aldershot Military Town and Cargate Avenue CAs as work is already well advanced, both are at risk from unsympathetic development and both would benefit from Article 4 Directions
- Aldershot West Conservation Area will be progressed with the Civic Society and Historic England and will take longer - it may become a priority if the Heritage Action Zone bid succeeds (notification is expected 'early autumn')
- Farnborough Hill, St Michaels Abbey & Basingstoke Canal CAs will be reviewed in 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, followed by Manor Park & South Farnborough.

2.5. Our project plan is as follows:

- By end Sept – complete draft boundary changes maps, character appraisals and management plans for Cargate Ave & Aldershot Military Town plus overarching explanatory document/text for website
- By end Oct – draft Article 4 directions & consider TPO implications, informal input from members and Civic Soc (Cargate) / Grainger (Military Town)
- Dec – Cabinet approves draft documents (Cargate & AMT) for consultation
- Jan/Feb – formal 6 week public consultation including new TPOs if required
- March – documents approved under delegated powers if no substantive changes or Cabinet (NB to be confirmed by Democratic Services)
- March 2020 – Article 4 confirmed after 12 months

**Update on the work of SHLPG during 2019 and indicative subject matter to be discussed at future meetings**

2.6. SHLPG have met three times since the beginning of the year, in January, March and August. The topics covered at each of these meeting is summarised below:

| <b>January 2019</b>                          | <b>March 2019</b>   | <b>August 2019</b>  |
|--|---|---|
| Adoption of the Local Plan                   | Review of adopted Supplementary Planning Documents following adoption of the Local Plan | Draft Householder Design Supplementary Planning Document                            |
|  | Consultation Draft Affordable Housing SPD   | Affordable Housing SPD – Consultation Statement and final document                  |
|  | Consultation Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2019                              | Statement of Community Involvement 2019 – Consultation Statement and final document |
| Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation – |   | Update on the Community Infrastructure  |

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|---|---|---|
| feedback on proposed response to government consultation                                      |   | Levy Regulations – Implications for RBC and suggested actions.                      |
| Biodiversity Net Gain Consultation - feedback on proposed response to government consultation | Verbal updated on Thames Basin Heaths SPA alternative mitigation project. |   |
|   | Conservation Area Reviews – project update.                               | Conservation Area Reviews – feedback from members workshop and next steps           |
| Update on the Housing and Homelessness Strategy   |   | Verbal update on delivering the objectives of the Housing and Homelessness Strategy |

2.7. A programme of further meetings has been agreed with meetings scheduled to take place in October 2019, January 2020 and April 2020. Indicative subject matters to be discussed at these meetings are detailed below:

- Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document
- Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document
- First tranche of Conservation Area Review Appraisals, Management Plans and Article 4 Directions.
- Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Rushmoor Rough Sleeper Strategy
- Update on Self and Custom Build

### **3. Leisure Facilities & Contracts Task and Finish Group**

- 3.1. The Leisure Facilities and Contracts Task and Finish Group met in July and August. At the initial meeting the Group received a presentation from GT3 Architects and Strategic Leisure on the leisure consultation and feasibility study. The second meeting in August was a workshop session to look at the specification which would form a key part of the leisure operating contract. A draft specification has now been drawn up by the consultants and will be circulated to the Task and Finish Group for comment and a further meeting arranged.
- 3.2. The Terms of Reference for the Group were revised as the project had evolved since the original Terms of Reference had been drawn up. They now referred more specifically to the development of the Operator contract specification and to monitor and evaluate the process for awarding the contract.

### **4. Rushmoor 2020 Task and Finish Group**

- 4.1. The Rushmoor 2020 Task and Finish Group have met on four occasions initially focussing on the Vision, Council Business Plan and engagement activity. Details on the Aldershot and Farnborough 2030 consultation were presented to the Task and Finish Group in advance of being presented to the full Advisory Board in June.

- 4.2. The current focus for the Task and Finish Group is the ICE programme which has been established to focus on the Council's customer and digital transformation which will run beyond the end of the Rushmoor 2020 programme. The programme comprises of three main elements **I**mprove and modernise the Council's core business, **C**reate a consistently excellent customer service and **E**nable efficiencies, savings and generate more income. The next meeting of the Task and Finish Group will be held on 19 September where the ICE Business Mandate and the Programme Delivery Plan will be considered.

## **5. Elections Group**

- 5.1. The Elections Group appointed Cllr John Woolley as Chairman and met in August 2019. The Group was updated on both the Local Borough Elections and the European Parliamentary Election and Members were given the opportunity to raise any issues. New developments in electoral administration were discussed particularly changes to the canvass process, Canvass Reform 2020, how this would affect administrators and electors. The Group discussed the benefits this would bring for hard to reach groups including attainners, care homes and the military. An update was provided by the Electoral Services Review Team and the developments made with new performance measures. The next meeting will be arranged for end October/early November.

## **6. Climate Change Working Group**

- 6.1. The first meeting took place on 21st August 2019 to consider the implications of the recent declaration of a "Climate Emergency". The Working Group took a detailed look at what the Council has been doing (including several case studies), noted current local Green initiatives and received an update on recent events.
- 6.2. Both the Council Business Plan and the Local Plan have strategic objectives to reduce the Borough's contribution to the causes of climate change and to minimise the impacts through a combination of mitigation and adaptation measures. The group agreed Terms of Reference and looked at the Council's last carbon footprint (2016-17) and the need for a new baseline calculation.
- 6.3. A number of Hampshire authorities have declared a climate emergency and many locally. The Working Group agreed to begin preliminary discussions with Hampshire County Council and other local authorities regarding joint work. The County have appointed a new Environment Champion.
- 6.4. The next steps will include speaking to local businesses about how they plan to become more sustainable and to reduce their carbon emissions significantly. A meeting with TAG has already been scheduled. It was agreed to involve all members and Working Group members will speak with other members of their political groups about initiatives that the Council might take forward.

**Justine Davie – Policy and Project Advisory Group Administrator  
17 September 2019**