

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 11</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>21 SEPTEMBER 2023</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>AMANDA VERNON, 07919 897691</b> <a href="mailto:Amanda.vernon@southderbyshire.gov.uk">Amanda.vernon@southderbyshire.gov.uk</a>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL WHERE THE REPORT AFFECTS THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE <u>OR</u> SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 To agree the appointment of five Members from this Committee to the Local Plan Working Group (LPWG).
- 1.2 In line with the Council's political proportionality, to receive three nominations from the Labour Group and two nominations from the Conservative Group, with appointments to be confirmed at the next meeting of Council.

## **2.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 To outline the purpose and importance of the Local Plan Working Group. To revisit the membership of the group in accordance with the Council's political proportionality.

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1 Following the District Council elections in May 2023, the membership of the Local Plan Working Group (LPWG) is revisited in accordance with the political proportionality of the Council. The working group is an information sharing group and does not make decisions on policy, this remains a matter for this Committee.
- 3.2 The purpose of the LPWG is to enable an informal dialogue between Council Officers and Members, with a view to Councillors on the Group sharing information with colleagues within their respective Groups.

## **4.0 Detail**

- 4.1 The Local Plan Working Group is an established forum for Planning Officers, Members and Senior Managers to discuss Local Plan issues in advance of the formal meetings of this Committee. The Group provides the opportunity to discuss Local Plan issues such as emerging evidence documents, on-going work with stakeholders

including neighbouring authorities, the Local Plan timetable, project plan and consultations.

- 4.2 Establishing strong working relationships between Officers, Members and Management is key for Local Plan production. The Local Plan will help to deliver the Council objectives set out in the Corporate Plan, assist the Council in delivering Council Strategies and assist with meeting government targets (e.g. housing delivery and environmental targets such as Net Zero). Local Plans often span political terms and following a process of public Examination by the Planning Inspectorate will need to be formally adopted by Full Council, therefore cross-party political inclusion in the process is key to success.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 None as a direct result of this report.

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

### **Employment Implications**

- 6.1 None as a direct result of this report.

### **Legal Implications**

- 6.2 None as a direct result of this report.

### **Corporate Plan Implications**

- 6.3 The Local Plan is a vehicle for delivery of aspirations set out in the Corporate Plan, including affordable housing delivery and protection and enhancement of the natural environment. The LPWG will help with the effective delivery of the Local Plan which in turn will deliver wider Council objectives set out in the Corporate Plan.

### **Risk Impact**

- 6.4 Delivery of the Local Plan could be hindered, not having an up-to-date Local Plan could result in the Council losing the ability to deliver development in a plan-led way and could make it harder for the Council to resist speculative development.

## **7.0 Community Impact**

- 7.1 As above, if the Council loses its ability to resist speculative development in less preferable locations, it could also mean that appropriate infrastructure is not delivered where it's needed, and that the Council's reputation is damaged with local communities as a result.

### **Consultation**

- 7.2 None.

### **Equality and Diversity Impact**

- 7.3 None as a direct result of this report.

### **Social Value Impact**

7.4 None as a direct result of this report.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

7.5 None as a direct result of this report.

### **8.0 Conclusions**

8.1 The LPWG is an important part of Local Plan production and should continue. The membership of the current LPWG should reflect the Council's political proportionality.

### **9.0 Background Papers**

None.