



**REPORT of
CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING POLICY WORKING GROUP**

**to
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
14 JULY 2022**

PLANNING POLICY WORKING GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2021 / 22

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an annual update on the work carried out by the Planning Policy Working Group during 2021 / 22 to which I was Chairman of the Group.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the content of the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 23 February 2021, the Council agreed to review its Local Development Plan (LDP), setting a timetable in a statutory document called its Local Development Scheme (LDS). To support this work, on 18 March 2021 (Minute No. 342 refers) the Council agreed to establish a Planning Policy Working Group.

- 3.2 From the Terms of Reference:

The Planning Policy Working Group is an advisory group will support the Strategy and Resources Committee and the Council in the legal and sound development of planning policy documents and guidance as set out in the LDS.

The Working Group will provide an important Member perspective on the preparation of all planning policy and supplementary planning guidance for the Maldon District.

The Working Group will:

- Provide cross-party member engagement and discussion in the work being undertaken to prepare the policy documents set out in the LDS;
- Provide informal feedback and discussion with officers on key draft evidence, documentation and policy options to guide officers formulating formal recommendations to the Strategy & Resources Committee; and
- Provide regular updates to the Strategy & Resources Committee on its work informing the LDP Review and SPD preparation.
- Take an active part in any planning policy training and encourage other Members outside the Working Group to attend that training when offered to the wider Membership of the Council.

- 3.3 The Planning Policy Working Group has been meeting regularly since its formation in 2021. Since the 14 March 2022 meeting, all Members have been invited to the Working Group meetings and have been taking part in the discussions.
- 3.4 The Working Group has carried out the following work:

14/5/2021	Introduction to the Planning Policy Team, Programme Overview, discussion about the key risks of the LDP Review project.
27/5/2021	Discussion on the Draft Duty to Co-operate Strategy and the Statement of Community Involvement prior to these documents going to Council and public consultation.
23/6/2021	Two all Member workshops including the Planning Policy Working Group – Maldon District Visioning Exercise, LDP scope awareness quiz, and work on the principles and scoring of the Settlement Hierarchy.
01/07/2021	Briefing on writing the LDP Review, reflections on housing issues. Discussions on items for the next meeting.
05/08/2021	Visioning outputs, discussion on the Spatial Options approach.
02/09/2021	Discussion about the final Duty to Co-operate Strategy and Statement of Consultation outputs, after these documents have been out for consultation. Team workstream update and an update on the Draft Issues and Options Report and Settlement Hierarchy.
07/10/2021	Cancelled – no business
09/11/2021	Update on the Issues and Options Document and discussion on the consultation arrangements for the document.
01/12/2021	Cancelled – no business
11/1/2022	Maldon District CIL Project Update. Update on the Housing Economic Land Availability Assessment and Call for Sites project. Discussion about the Transport East Strategy Consultation.
08/02/2022	Presentation by the Marine Management Organisation under the Duty to Co-operate about their distinct but complimentary role in the planning system. Issues and Options consultation update, agreement on responding to the Essex County Council Limebrook Way Primary School Consultation.
14/03/2022 (All Members)	Overview of the Terms of Reference for the Working Group, update on the workstreams of the planning policy team. Briefing on how planning policy is prepared and what a good planning policy should look like.
12/04/2022 (All Members)	Discussion on the key metrics from the Issues and Options Consultation

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The work of the Planning Policy Working Group is assisting in the process of moving forward with the Local Development Plan Review. Up till this point in time, the work has been mainly focused on the Issues and Options Document which was approved and went out for consultation between 17 January and 14 March 2022 and ensuring that Members remain briefed on the Planning Policy Team's LDP Review and CIL workstreams, essential to the progress of the LDP Review project. The work has also included briefing/training for Members so that as the work of the Working Group moves forward, they have the essential knowledge and information they need for advising Strategy and Resources and Council on decision-making.

5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 The LDP Review covers all three Strategic Themes of Place, Prosperity and Community. The theme of Place seeks to deliver the District's housing needs and deliver sustainable growth and new infrastructure through development. The theme of Prosperity seeks to ensure that the council supports business, economic growth and tourism. The theme of Community seeks to build on the strengths of our communities and what they can do to support themselves and help each other to thrive.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

Background Papers: None

Enquiries to Anne Altoft-Shorland – Lead Specialist Local Plans and Implementation.