

MINUTES

CABINET

14 OCTOBER 2024

Present:

Members:

Councillors: Adrian England Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Place
Simi Dhyani Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing & Property
William Allen Portfolio Holder for Corporate & Commercial
Robin Bromham Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Operations
Caroline Smith- Wright Portfolio Holder for Transformation (People and Climate & Ecological Emergency)

Officers: Claire Hamilton Chief Executive
James Doe Strategic Director - Place
Mark Brookes Assistant Director - Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)
Nigel Howcutt Chief Finance Officer (S151)
David Barrett Assistant Director, Housing and Delivery
Ronan Leydon Head of Strategic Planning
Ian Ross Head of Neighbourhood Management
Darren Welsh Strategic Director, Housing and Property Services
James Doe Strategic Director - Place
Mark Brookes Assistant Director - Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)
Nigel Howcutt Chief Finance Officer (S151)
David Barrett Assistant Director, Housing and Delivery
Ronan Leydon
Ian Ross Head of Neighbourhood Management

Also Attendance:

Councillor Andrew Williams
Councillor Garrick Stevens

The meeting began at 10.00 am

CA/84/21 MINUTES

The minutes held on 10th September 2024 were confirmed and agreed by the Members present.

CA/85/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that there were no apologies for absence.

CA/86/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest.

CA/87/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following registered speakers addressed the committee;

Emma Lelieveld addressed the committee on Item 8 the Local Plan and made a statement which included the following question;

When did the respective owners of BK02 and BK03 approach the Council for their sites to be reinstated in the local plan and what recommendation did the Council make to them on pre-consultation with the local community

Elizabeth O'Reilly addressed the committee on Item 8 the Local Plan.

Steve Ballantyne & Keith Baker addressed the committee on Item 8 the Local Plan with a joint statement.

The committee noted the representations made and responses were provided by Cllr England, JDoe and RLeydon.

For full details of the statements and responses, please refer to the video minutes.

CA/88/21 REFERRALS TO CABINET

It was noted that there were no referrals to Cabinet for consideration.

CA/89/21 CABINET FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan was noted with no changes.

CA/90/21 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND FEES & CHARGES

Cllr England introduced the report and invited the Chief Finance Officer, NHowcutt, to present the report which includes a proposed amendment to recommendation 6.

NHowcutt outlined the report and referred to the recommendations as set out and advised that there is a slight amendment to recommendation 6, which recommends that Cabinet recommend to Council the approval of the fees & charges in appendices C to F. This is now with the exception of garden waste and garage fees that are going to come under additional review before final authorisation through council. One other point worth noticing that has come back from comments at scrutiny last week; there are car parking fees in the appendices there with a 0% increase. As this committee is aware, the parking tariff consultation process is underway and coming to a conclusion and that has been a delegated decision to the Portfolio Holder so this report is not asking for Council or Cabinet to make any recommendations on car parking fees.

Cllr Williams raised a question relating to the amendment to recommendation 6 and the change in the timescales in the way in which fees and charges are now set.

To view the discussion on this item, please refer to the video minutes.

Decision:

The recommendations as set out in the report were agreed, subject to the amendment to recommendation 6, to read;

CA/91/21 THE LOCAL PLAN

It was agreed that the Local Plan (item 8) would be considered ahead of item 7 to continue the discussion started during public participation.

Cllr Allen addressed officers, advising he had a couple of questions of his own but also felt there were a couple of strands he would like to raise where he feels the resident's questions hadn't quite been addressed;

1. Regarding grey belt, this has been addressed in terms of specific sites in Berkhamsted but where have we got to in terms of grey belt potential elsewhere in the Borough?
2. The other item is the issue of the feeling in Berkhamsted that they've had things hoisted on them in a way that Tring residents had more warning; so what was the timing and dynamic of these sites coming forward again and Berkhamsted residents having an opportunity to comment on them?
3. Given the sensitive nature of Marshcroft, does not putting Marshcroft into the Local Plan potentially cause more predatory development as nothing in Dacorum is sacred anymore?
4. Cllr Allen observed that on one hand Dacorum is facing the danger of predatory development, on other hand the Borough is saying there is not enough well advanced sites available as alternatives; seem to be two contradictory statements being made. He asked; is there any way to explain how those are being reconciled?

Following a point of clarification being raised (indicating it was not felt the question had been answered), Cllr England addressed officers and reiterated the question submitted by Emma Lelieveld under public participation.

Cllr England addressed officers and asked; we are trying to understand why there are not more sites which are capable of technical qualification and have willing land owners, is that because they do not exist or is it due to the resource we have available to identify these?

Cllr Smith-Wright addressed the committee and expressed she feels that we are being asked to make a decision that very much doesn't feel comfortable. Expressing that she would like to see that the environment is very much kept in mind for future building; for the Council to talk to developers from the word go to ask them to put sustainability and the ecological emergency at the forefront so that any houses that are built will not be a travesty to our towns and villages.

Cllr Dhyani expressed that the Cabinet want to be known as a listening Council; to take on board the feedback of residents as the people that have to live here, we want to ensure we get the right infrastructure alongside the right houses in Dacorum.

Cllr Bromham advised that he would like to push the sustainability of heating of homes and sustainable travel, want us to utilise this plan to put our aspirations forward to achieve actions that will reduce the cost of living and quality of life and pollution etc.

Cllr Bromham asked a point of clarification question regarding the west Berkhamsted sites and accessibility; the high street as we know is already very congested. If sites 2, 3 and 4 in Berkhamsted do not meet that requirement in view of inspectors,

The officer responses to questions raised and the full discussion on this matter can be viewed through the video minutes.

Decision:

Cllr England presented the recommendations as set out in the report, which were agreed.

CA/92/21 MAYLANDS MASTERPLAN

Cllr England introduced the item and handed over to JDoe who presented the report and advised this was considered at overview and scrutiny last week.

To view the full discussion on this please refer to the video minutes.

Decision:

The recommendations as set out in the report were agreed.

CA/93/21 YEAR-END 2023/24 TENANT SATISFACTION MEASURES REPORT

Cllr Dhyani introduced the report; there were no questions.

Cllr Allen congratulated the officers and department for the progress.

For full details please refer to the video minutes.

Decision:

Cabinet noted the report.

CA/94/21 PARKING SOLUTIONS

Cllr Bromham introduced the report, highlighting the verge hardening sites identified to address the issues highlighted by increased volume of vehicles in residential streets.

Cllr Allen raised a question regarding potential to use of ward CIL contributions to support this.

Cllr Williams referred to the inference that there has been 24 sites identified, noting the site information is not included in the report and asked to see the list of schemes that are likely to go ahead and what the timescales will be for that work to start.

For full discussion please refer to the video minutes.

Decision:

The recommendations as set out in the report were agreed.

CA/95/21 DACORUM INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS

Cllr England introduced the report and handed over to NHowcutt who gave a high level overview of the report.

For the full discussion, please refer to the video minutes.

Decision:

The recommendations as set out in the report were agreed.

The Meeting ended at 11.57 am