



## Council Briefing Note 17 July 2024

PLACE PORTFOLIO – COUNCILLOR SHERON WILKIE

### Planning Services

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

- The appeal against the Council's decision to refuse the development of 1,400 houses (and associated development) on Land East of Tring was dismissed by the Secretary of State. The Council has been notified as an Interested Party that a challenge has been bought forward by the applicants. There are no set timescales on this.
- A new appeal has been received at Land West of Leighton Buzzard Road against the refusal of planning permission for construction of up to 390 dwellings (C3 Use), including up to 40% affordable housing and 5% self build, a residential care home for up to 70-beds (C2 use), along with associated landscaping and open space with access from Leighton Buzzard Road. The anticipated public inquiry date is 15 October 2024 (planning application 21/04508/MOA).
- The HCC team continue to work with DBC on the Local Cycle Walking Infrastructure Plan. An update will be provided to SPAE OSC on this work in autumn and a stakeholder engagement session with a consultation is planned for the end of September 2024. The timescales on this work have been updated due to the purdah period.
- The Strategic Planning Team are continuing to finalise the evidence base required to demonstrate to the Planning Inspector that the final version is the best strategy for Dacorum. The Task and Finish Group had their last meeting on 27 June, the Duty to Co-operate meetings are continued with our neighbouring local authorities and the team are working with statutory consultees on our Infrastructure Delivery Plan which will support the Local Plan. The next update to SPAE OSC is scheduled for Wednesday 4 September.
- The key performance indicators in the planning enforcement team for Q4 (up to April 2024) showed are increasing thanks to the work of the team including temporary resources to work through the back log. The team are working on a plan to make this performance sustainable and ensure a manageable workload. The Enforcement Team remain focused on dealing with the most harmful breaches of planning control. A total of 6 formal Notices were served in the quarter (all Enforcement Notices)

Strategic or significant operational matters which your service would like full Council to be aware of:

- Bovingdon Neighbourhood Plan is on agenda for Full Council 17 July and will continue to be adopted.
- The Strategic Planning Team is also supporting Great Gaddesden and Berkhamsted Neighbourhood Plans.
- Markyate Conservation Area Character Appraisal agreed at SPAE OSC, and Cabinet on 12 May. The Conservation Area Character Appraisal will be adopted following Council approval.
- Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document has been agreed by SPAE OSC and Cabinet, the consultation period is currently being planned.

### Place and Enterprise

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

- The Head of Place and Enterprise and the Enterprise Manager started on 1 July 2024
- UK Shared Prosperity funded projects completed or nearing completion – Keens Field Flower Shield, People’s Park feasibility study in Berkhamsted, Maylands Masterplan
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Hemel Imaginarium. Officers are working with voluntary sector partners as well as the BID on ‘pop up’ summer activities. This includes a Summer of Sports delivered by Apex 360, a big screen in the town centre with deckchairs for the Olympics, and a 2 day freestyle bike ride workshop in Market Square

Strategic or significant operational matters which your service would like full Council to be aware of:

- Health Campus – A report will be presented to Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> July detailing next steps and with recommendations to take the project forward
- Mulligans Hemel is opening in Jarmans Park in July. This will include an indoor 18 hole crazy golf course inspired by iconic games, as well as additional activities such as electro darts, ping pong and pool.

## **Communities and Leisure**

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

- Berkhamsted Pool reopened on 1 July on schedule, following repairs to a significant leak and Maintenance agreed to be undertaken while the pool was empty. Officers worked closely with Everyone Active to ensure closure was kept to a minimum and effective communications in place.
- The Spring round of Community Grants has awarded £27,860 to 11 groups and £4,400 in small grants to 9 groups

Strategic or significant operational matters which your service would like full Council to be aware of:

- A summer Holiday Programme has been developed for Adeyfield and Bennetts End Adventure Playgrounds

## **Arts and Culture**

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

- Dacorum Community Dance have resumed weekly seated dance sessions at Evelyn Sharpe House and William Crook House
- Subways Public Art - Plough Roundabout – young people attended two workshops with final designs submitted to HCC with painting anticipated mid July

Strategic or significant operational matters which your service would like full Council to be aware of:

- Old Town Hall Theatre – a new Disability Access system is due to launch in July
- A two week festival of Comedy Previews is programmed for July with comedians including Jo Brand and Milton Jones trying out their material ahead of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival

## **Hemel Garden Communities**

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

- Hemel Garden Communities continues to develop evidence and draft policies to support the Local Plan processes, across both Dacorum and St Albans.
- Further work on the Framework Plan has been progressed to reflect Landscape Assessment work and ensure the boundaries for Land North of Hemel Hempstead can be robustly defended and capacity maintained at around 10,500 dwellings across Hemel Garden Communities.

- In parallel, various workstreams are being developed that will inform a future Supplementary Planning Document to ensure the qualitative output of future development plans.
- Work is also progressing on land assembly and delivery strategies, which will be necessary to delivering comprehensive development across Land North of Hemel Hempstead.
- The Councillor Review Group engagement activity plan is being refreshed to outline engagement activities for the second half of the year.

Strategic or significant operational matters which your service would like full Council to be aware of:

- N/A will be reported via wider DBC Local Plan processes.