

Castle Point Plan Board Meeting 23rd January 2025

Present:

Councillors: Gibson, Copsey, Mountford, Lillis and Fuller.

Officers in attendance: Shukri Masseri (Principal Planning Policy Officer), Matt Amner (Planning Policy Officer), Neil Gale (Community Engagement Officer), Amanda Parrott (Assistant Director of Climate and Growth).

Apologies: Councillors Blackwell, Palmer, Savage, Angela Hutchings (Chief Executive), Ian Butt (Director of Place and Communities)

Consultants in Attendance: DAC Planning – David Coleman, Vicki Willis

Agenda

Castle Point Green Belt Assessment Update

Consultants from DAC Planning presented the work they had undertaken on the Green Belt Review. This covered:

- The changes to the NPPF and how this has impacted on the assessment
- Details of the approach they took to identifying Grey Belt
- Outcomes of the Grey Belt work looking at the distribution of previously developed land and to the purposes of the Green Belt
- Details of the approach taken to assessing Green Belt sites that have been promoted to the Council
- Outcomes of the assessment of Green Belt Sites – sites were either recommended for further consideration, recommended for further consideration in part, or not recommended for further consideration.

Members were advised that in the absence of the promised Government Guidance on Green Belt Reviews, the advice of Counsel will be sought on the approach taken to provide assurance.

Members asked if further consideration should be given to purpose d) in relation to the Green Belt assessment work. Officers and the consultants from DAC Planning agreed to investigate this matter.

Next Steps

Members and officers discussed the next steps for considering Green Belt sites.

Sites will be subject to assessment through different strands of evidence base work including sustainability appraisal, flood risk assessment, transport modelling and Habitats Regulations assessment.

The outcomes of this assessment work will be reported back to the next meeting of the board.