

NOTES OF CASTLE POINT PLAN BOARD

5th July 2023

PRESENT:

Councillors: Gibson (Chairman), Blackwell, Fuller, Hart, Isaacs, S. Mumford, Palmer and Savage.

Officers in attendance: Ian Butt (Head of Place & Policy) Amanda Parrott (Planning Policy Manager), Cheryl Salmon (Note Taker).

Apologies: Angela Hutchings (Chief Executive).

1. Notes of the meeting on 7th June 2023 – Noted.

2. Engagement Update

The Board received an update on the latest engagement activity. It was reported that 495 responses had been received to the ongoing survey including responses from 11 to 24 year olds. There had been over 100 participants at 6 community engagement events to date. A telephone survey for Local Housing Needs Assessment complete with 501 respondents.

Over 41,000 letters had recently been sent to residents and local businesses using Council Tax and Business Rate addresses. It was confirmed that the letter was addressed 'to the occupier' or 'business owner'. Information stating that a letter that had been sent out was also posted on social media. It was suggested that in any email acknowledgements to residents who responded to the consultation a further line was added to encourage them to ask other people in the household to register to take part.

Upcoming engagement included sessions with schools and youth groups to improve demographic representation and CPBC Leisure to assist in improving representation from the 18 – 35 year old age category.

The Board expressed that they were pleased with the engagement work to date and were pleased to note that everything was on track.

3. Flood Risk and the Castle Point Plan

The Board undertook discussion on areas of concern in the borough in terms of flood risk. It included areas that the Board would like to see the flood risk evidence for to investigate further and areas of flood risk management that the Board would like to see incorporated in the Castle Point Plan.

It was stated that flood risk was a critical local issue in Castle Point and there were different issues in different parts of the borough. Whilst flood risk was not in itself

unique to the area particular local circumstances were unique and likely solutions would need to be tailored.

Maps were shown detailing existing flood risk in Castle Point in terms of tidal, fluvial, surface water, sewer and groundwater. A list of the statutory bodies responsible for these flood risks was also shown.

A link to the ECC flood map referred to was circulated to the board as follows:
<https://flood.essex.gov.uk/what-to-do-about-flooding/check-if-you-re-at-risk-of-flooding/>

During discussion some Members expressed their frustration that certain statutory bodies continued to state there were no problems in certain areas of the borough when clearly there was. Ongoing problems with drainage at Westwood, Hadleigh and the 'Bird Estate' in Benfleet were specifically mentioned.

It was noted that future flood risk in Castle Point could be as a result of the impacts of climate change and growth. The Head of Place and Policy stated flood risk within the plan would be about creating resilience but could not stop things like climate change.

Consideration was given to managing flood risk in the future including the TE2100 Plan, surface water specifically on Canvey Island and generally throughout the borough, the Anglian Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023-2050 and how new development would be approached in terms of flood risk.

6. Next Meetings/ Workshops

- Board meeting Wednesday 2nd August 2023
 - Workshop – Thursday 17th August 2023
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