

NOTES OF CASTLE POINT PLAN BOARD

6th December 2023

PRESENT:

Councillors: Gibson (Chair), Blackwell, Fuller, Hart, Isaacs, Mountford, S. Mumford and Palmer.

Officers in attendance: Ian Butt (Director of Place and Communities), Amanda Parrott (Assistant Director of Climate and Growth), Maria Hennessy (Senior Planning Policy Officer), Matt Amner (Planning Policy Officer), Neil Gale (Planning Policy Officer – Engagement), Dominic Chessum (Communications).

Apologies: Councillor Savage and Angela Hutchings (Chief Executive).

1. Notes of the meeting on 1 November 2023 – Noted- amend typo.

2. Progress report

- The housing needs assessment and engagement report are ready to be published. Once this has been done, comms can be agreed on the progress so far.
- Officers went through the terms of reference of the board which were agreed on 30.11.2022. Members agreed that the board has been fulfilling its purpose over the past year. The website has been updated with progress on the Board.
- The Board said that the Cabinet report from earlier in the year and the Council report from November can be added to the progress page.
- The Board said that the website could have a future work programme to add to the website to keep the public updated.

3. How is the Board progressing against the motion?

- The members were satisfied that the work to date fulfils the aspirations set out in the motion to withdraw the previous local plan.
- Members wanted to confirm that government ministers were aware of our approach taken on the Castle Point Plan and were happy with it.
- The broad approach to the Castle Point Plan was agreed in November 2022, officers gave an update on the progress on the approach and updates on activities so far.

Phase one – programme update

- Initial engagement and local housing needs assessment are completed.
- Urban capacity assessment, open space assessment, local wildlife site review are underway.
- The strategic flood risk assessment is out for tender currently.
- These items of work are iterative, and the purpose is for some of them to be used by other departments, such as the environment team.

Phase two – programme update

- Additional informal engagement to address gaps in information, such as information from hard-to-reach groups. This is underway through engagement through art and business surveys.
- Transport strategy and assessment (part one) and an integrated impact assessment are out for tender currently. The initial stages of these

evidence documents are due to be completed prior to options engagement.

- The economic development strategy is underway using in house resources.
- The green infrastructure strategy, renewable energy strategy and a playing pitch strategy are programmed for the new year.

Work planned for the next year (2024)

- The target is to prepare an options engagement for residents and other stakeholders to consider and comment on in the period from June to August 2024.
- The following areas of policy will be developed before this from January to May 2024:
 - Urban development patterns – density scenarios, design, parking and accessibility.
 - Climate change – targets for net zero, retrofitting, approach to travel, urban greening, making space for water.
 - Health – role of open spaces, role of active travel, quality of housing, food environment, role of the economy.
 - Green Belt – role of the Green Belt, positive green belt uses, investigate if detailed small changes to the boundary are required, community assets in the green belt.

Cllr Gibson and Mountford left the meeting. Cllr Blackwell taken over as chair.

- For the new year councillors suggested adding dates for future board meetings with the topics for each session included. This was agreed to come back in January's meeting.
- It was suggested that high level notes on workshops as well as Boards are also undertaken to create an audit trail.
- Officers highlighted that evidence will need to be reviewed by the Board as it emerges.

4. Communications

- The approach to publishing the LHNA was discussed. It was agreed that DLUHC would be advised of the publication before it occurred.
- Engagement outcomes can be published next week.