

Castle Point Plan Board Meeting Notes 8th July 2025

Present:

Councillors: Cllr W Gibson, Cllr T Copsey, Cllr S Mountford, Cllr B Palmer, Cllr R Savage, Cllr R Lillis and Cllr M Fuller.

Officers in attendance: Shukri Masseri (Principal Planning Policy Officer), Genny Middlemast (Senior Planning Policy Officer), Neil Gale (Community Engagement Officer), Amanda Parrott (Assistant Director of Climate and Growth), Angela Hutchings (Chief Executive), Ian Butt (Director of Place and Communities) and Beth Jones (Planning Policy and Climate Action Manager).

Apologies: Cllr D Blackwell

Agenda

Castle Point Plan Update

Members have been provided with a draft copy of the cabinet report and copy of the Draft Castle Point Plan. Members were briefed on the strategy which is an urban first strategy that protects green spaces for their biodiversity, flood risk management, recreation and heritage benefits. In taking this approach the Council will need to be proactive in terms of the regeneration of town centres and in bringing forward Council owned land for development.

Members received a presentation on the outcomes of the updated evidence work. This work has been prepared since the PINs Advisory Visit on the 27 February, and the changes to the NPPF that occurred in December 2024, and the revised Green Belt PPG published at the end of February 2025. This presentation covered 6 key evidence documents; Castle Point Green and Blue Infrastructure Study, Green Belt Review, Design based Density Assessments of Urban Sites, Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Transport Assessment and Transport - Sustainable and Suitable Site Access Assessment for GB sites.

This evidence further outlines the opportunities and constraints within the borough and provides a package of evidence to support the strategy within the Castle Point Plan, which promotes growth within existing urban areas.

Members voted unanimously in favour of recommending to Cabinet that the Castle Point Plan should proceed to Regulation 19 Consultation.