



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices • Ebley Mill • Ebley Wharf • Stroud • GL5 4UB

Tel: (01453) 754 351/754 321

www.stroud.gov.uk

Email: democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk

## EXTRAORDINARY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

15 October 2020

7.00 pm – 8.41 pm

Remote Meeting

### Minutes

# 3

#### Membership

<b>Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)</b>	P	Councillor Haydn Jones	P
<b>Councillor George James (Vice-Chair)</b>	P	Councillor Norman Kay	P
Councillor Chas Townley	P	Councillor Skeena Rathor	A
Councillor Paul Denney	P	Councillor Haydn Sutton	P
Councillor Trevor Hall	A	Councillor Jessica Tomblin	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	P	Councillor Tim Williams	P

P = Present                  A = Absent

#### Officers in Attendance

Strategic Director of Place	Senior Democratic Services & Elections
Head of Planning Strategy	Officer
Democratic Services & Elections Officer	

The Chair announced a change to the order of the Agenda, the Committee agreed to take Agenda Item 7 after Agenda Item 10.

#### Other Member(s) in Attendance

Councillor John Jones  
Councillor Miranda Clifton

#### EC.020

#### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sutton and Tomblin.

#### EC.021

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

**EC.022**            **TEMPORARY CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Head of Planning Strategy introduced the report confirming that it was a proposal for temporary changes to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement to help reflect the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic restrictions so that future consultations on planning matters could still be conducted safely. The Head of Planning Strategy drew the Committee's attention to the summary of proposed changes contained in paragraph 3.2.

Councillor Townley stated that the Council could do more to encourage large numbers of the public to respond and questioned whether there was more we could do such as onsite publicity. The Head of Planning Strategy advised that at the last consultation there were approximately 900 responses from individual members of the public, he stated that he didn't think that there was a large problem with the numbers of responses following consultation on specific sites however confirmed that consultation was more difficult for general policy or non site specific planning matters. Councillor Townley also raised questions regarding what work could be done to actively engage with different groups such as those seeking housing. The Head of Planning Strategy confirmed that this would be something they could look into and would be interested to know about any umbrella groups that could help to represent their viewpoints.

Councillor Hurst raised concerns regarding the electronic nature of the proposed consultation and whether paper copies could be made available to those who request it. The Head of Planning Strategy advised that paper copies would be made available on request for those who are unable to access the online copies.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**    **To approve temporary changes to the Statement of Community Involvement set out in Appendix A**

**EC.023**            **LOCAL PLAN REVIEW: ADDITIONAL HOUSING OPTIONS CONSULTATION AND REVISED TIMETABLE**

The Head of Planning Strategy introduced the above report and drew the committee's attention to the proposed changes to the timetable, he stated that despite good progress the Covid-19 pandemic had resulted in delays to the work programme and therefore the Autumn deadline for approval of the Draft Local Plan for pre-submission consultation could no longer be met and this was to be moved to early 2021. Further proposed milestones were laid out in paragraph 4.2. An Additional housing options paper for consultation was also included as a proposal in this report and was included in Appendix A, it was confirmed that the housing options paper did not identify preferred spatial options or specific sites and that they would welcome additional suggestions.

In a response to a question from Councillor Hurst the Head of Planning Strategy advised that there is an estimated 8.9 year supply of housing land within the district and the requirement is to have a minimum of 5 years. It was also confirmed that the Council would therefore be in a good position to resist speculative housing applications on land that hadn't already been identified for development.

The Head of Planning Strategy answered members' questions which covered the following topics:-

- Undeliverable and brownfield sites – it was confirmed that the Council had intervened in sites previously and a budget had been put aside to help the Council to be more proactive in delivering brownfield sites.
- A viability study was being prepared and would be published before the Local Plan is presented to Full Council.
- The previous consultation responses had been published online after it closed in January and a consultation report would be published when the draft local plan was next submitted to the Committee.

The Chair provided clarification that it would be the Councillors who will make the final decision on the Local Plan.

Councillor Kay asked questions about the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the pressure this puts on other areas of the district to provide suitable locations for housing. The Head of Planning Strategy confirmed that with regards National Planning Policy in AONB there is a presumption in favour of retaining the natural landscape and it would therefore reduce the potential for large scale housing and put increased pressure on parts of the district that were outside of the AONB.

Councillor Townley asked questions regarding the Moreton Valence Site, the Head of Planning Strategy advised that they had re-assessed all of the sites that had been put forward previously to see if there was a concentration of sites. A number of sites in Moreton Valence had been assessed individually but consideration was now being given to whether these combined sites could be a potential growth point.

Councillor Hurst asked for clarification as to whether the areas being assessed reflect the current expectation of housing numbers or the potential increase in housing numbers that might come from government. The Head of Planning Strategy stated that the consultation was covering both scenarios, it would be looking at additional spatial options in case of a need to add to the supply, it would also be separately consulting on the sites that had been identified and providing potential options for reserve sites. The Chair advised that the government may change the rules regarding housing numbers and we needed to be prepared for all possibilities.

Members debated the topic at length.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

- RESOLVED**
- a. **Approve the Additional Housing Options Paper set out in Appendix A for the purposes of undertaking public consultation**
  - b. **Approve revisions to the Local Plan Review timetable as set out in this report and to make consequential changes to the timetable on the Council's website and in the approved Local Development Scheme.**

The meeting ended at 8.41 pm.

Chair