



Committee Report

PURPOSE: Final Decision Report

KEY OR NON-KEY DECISION: Non-key decision

COMMITTEE: Economy and Skills Committee

DATE: 29 July 2024

TITLE: Establishment of Cross-Party Local Plan Working Group

Ward(s): Citywide

Officer presenting the report: Simone Wilding **Job title:** Chief Planner

Committee Chair: Councillor Andrew Brown

Executive Director lead: John Smith: Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration

Proposal origin: Other

Purpose of Report: To agree the re-establishment of an informal cross-party Local Plan Working Group to operate under the auspices of the Economy & Skills Committee.

Evidence Base / Options to consider:

1. To enable the timely examination of the local plan with member input as and when this is needed in an agile fashion, the E&S committee is requested to agree to the establishment of an informal, cross-party Local Plan Working Group. The group would receive updates on the local plan and advise officers on their response to questions which will be raised by the inspectors through the examination process. Political balance is not a requirement for such an informal working group but would seem desirable to ensure buy-in. It is therefore suggested that proportionality should be the guiding principle for allocating membership across the parties.
2. To reflect the overall proportions of full Council it is recommended to keep the local plan working group at the same size and composition as committees. ie a total of 9 members constituted of 48.57% Green (4 members), 28.57% Labour (3 members), 11.43% Liberal Democrats (1 member), 10% Conservative (1 member).
3. Suggested terms of reference for the LPWG are attached as Appendix 1 below. They are based on the previous LPWG TORs and include a role for informal advice on supplementary planning documents. The Chair of the working group will be a member of Economy and Skills Committee. The membership of the LPWG is proposed to be decided by party leads and in line with political proportionality.

Officer Recommendations:

That the Committee for Economy and Skills:

- 1. Endorses the establishment of an informal cross party Local Plan Working Group in principle in accordance with the terms of reference as set out in Appendix A.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

Provides an agile mechanism for supporting the development of the local plan which is a key instrument to ensure land use across the Council area is managed in a sustainable way.

City Benefits:

As above

Consultation Details:

Not applicable. The local plan itself has been consulted on three times and the examination of the local plan is in public with all those who have made representations to it able to participate in its examination.

Background Documents:

None

Revenue Cost	£0	Source of Revenue Funding	N/A
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> If yes - existing or new saving? Choose an item. OR Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	

1. Finance Advice: There are no specific financial implications to this proposal with all work to support the new Local Plan Working Group to be delivered with existing resources.

Finance Business Partner: Ben Hegarty, Finance Business Partner Growth and Regeneration, 5 July 2024.

2. Legal Advice: The Economy and Skills Committee is responsible for the delivery of the renewed Local Plan and its terms of reference permit it to develop and agree strategies policies and plans in respect of the areas of responsibility of the committee. The proposal of a Working Party supports the progression of the Local Plan process through its Examination in Public stage and supports a Plan the Committee is responsible for progressing to adoption by Full Council.

Legal Team Leader: Joanne Mansfield 3rd July 2024

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT regarding this activity.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson – Lead Enterprise Architect, 04/07/2024

4. HR Advice: There are no HR implications associated

HR Partner: Celia Williams, HR Business Partner, Growth and Regeneration – 4 July 2024

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	YES
Appendix C – Environmental Impact Assessment	NO
Appendix D – Decision Risk Assessment	NO
Appendix E – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix F – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix G – Options appraisal matrix	NO
Appendix H – Business case / financial analysis	NO