

COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday, 30 April 2020 at 7.00 pm

Place: Virtually online and Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Dorn - Chairman

Ambler	Drage	Radley
Axam	Farmer	Smith
Bailey	Forster	Southern
Blewett	Kennett	Tomlinson
Butler	Kinnell	Wildsmith
Clarke	Lamb	Worlock
Cockarill	Makepeace-Browne	Wright
Crampton	Neighbour	
Crookes	Oliver	
Davies	Quarterman	
Delaney		

Officers Present:

Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Mark Jaggard	Head of Place
Gill Chapman	Committee Services
Helen Vincent	Committee Services

72 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Council agreed to the suspension of Standing Orders nos 9.1 and 9.2 (Chairing of the Meeting), 9.3 (Show of Hands for Voting), 22.1 (Standing to Speak) and 22.2 (Chairman Standing).

73 CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN

Members confirmed that the Chairman for this meeting only would be Councillor Dorn.

74 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Crisp, Harward and Wheale.

75 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

76 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman confirmed the Virtual Meeting Procedures and rules of debate as set out in the Crib.

77 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Under Rule 14.2 **Councillor Farmer** asked the Portfolio Holder for Place the following question:

With reference to the **Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Hart Local Plan (April 2020)**, published as (**Appendix 2: Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement**) for consideration with Recommendation B of the paper for **ADOPTION OF THE HART LOCAL PLAN (STRATEGY & SITES) 2032**.

Two amendments have recently been made to this report and we were notified of these changes on the afternoon of Friday 24th April 2020.

In section 2.5, **SA Report Addendum (March 2019)**, under the section **Appraisal of proposed modifications**, paragraphs 2.5.4 and 2.5.5 have both been deleted, originally published as follows:

2.5.4

However, it was a challenge to conclude with any certainty that either change leads to implications for the sustainability baseline / achievement of sustainability objectives. With regards to housing numbers, it is only increases in housing supply that enable sustainability considerations to be attributed with any certainty, although to increase the requirement would likely lead to a review of the Plan being needed sooner, which would be a positive from a housing perspective with tensions in respect of some community and environmental objectives.

2.5.5

With regards to the deletion of the new settlement area of search, this was effectively the deletion of a process to start a DPD, and not a deletion of a new settlement allocation. The DPD process may be replaced in time with a different process, most likely the next local plan, which would be subject to its own SA with a range of reasonable alternatives 'on the table'.

Why were these paragraphs deleted from the report that was originally published and why so late, less than a week before tonight's Full Council Meeting?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

The background to the change is straightforward. It is entirely an Officer decision, using their professional judgement to seek an adjustment to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Adoption Statement at Appendix 2.

In the first instance, they were responding to issues raised by some Members last week. The Officers reviewed the SA and reread para 2.5.5. They concluded that the

wording used in para 2.5.5 was incorrect and indeed it could be misconstrued as to its intent and interpretation.

The Officers were also concerned that upon reflection the wording of para 2.5.5 of the SA was also directly in conflict with the Local Plan itself.

I draw your attention to the Inspector's Main Modifications in the paper attached as Appendix 1a page 56. This Modification states:

"The Council will review the policies in this Plan within five years of adoption to assess whether they need updating. Policies will then be updated where necessary.

An early review (ie prior to the five year period expiring) could be triggered by:

- *Results of annual monitoring on the effectiveness of the plan in line with the Plan's Monitoring Framework and having particular regard to the monitoring of housing delivery;*
- *Significant changes to national planning policy and/or legislation;*
- *Duty to co-operate issues, particularly addressing housing and employment needs within the Housing Market Area/ Functional Economic Area (which comprises Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath administrative areas); and*
- *Any other reasons that render the Plan, or part of it, out of date.*

The AMR will report on the issues above and whether these will trigger a review:

In addition, the Council has an aspiration to plan ahead for long term growth needs. This would reduce the risk of policies (particularly housing policies) becoming out of date and would provide greater certainty over the longer term. All reasonable growth options, including the potential for a new settlement, would need to be fully considered and evidenced in a future review of the Plan or a subsequent DPD.

So, it was quite proper, even at this late stage, for the Officers to react to an issue highlighted and to seek a view from the SA consultant and ask that it be made clear that the SA had to be consistent with the Plan itself and that two irrelevant paragraphs (for the SA purposes) be removed from the SA report so that the SA avoided any conflict with the Inspector's findings and recommendations.

Councillor Farmer asked as Supplementary Question:

I thank Cllr. Cockarill for what was a comprehensive answer but given the timing of the report I do believe it was important for these deletions to be transparent and for us to understand the process by which they had taken place and for Cllr. Cockarill to further comment and clarify. Based upon his response, I assume that my understanding is therefore correct that, as Portfolio Holder for Place, he did not actually approve the deletion of these paragraphs before the report was issued?"

Councillor Cockarill responded:

Well thank you for the subsequent follow up. I had a conversation with officers to advise me of the issue but I did not give them a specific approval - it wasn't my place to tell them what to do, so they advised me in consultation, at that point, that that's what they were going to do.

78 **ADOPTION OF THE HART LOCAL PLAN (STRATEGY & SITES) 2032**

Members were asked to adopt the Hart Local Plan (Strategy & Sites) 2032 in line with the Inspector's recommendations (including the Inspector's Main Modifications).

Councillor Cockarill proposed the recommendation and Councillor Radley seconded.

Members spoke in support of the Local Plan and the hard work put in by Officers and were also comforted by the changes to the Sustainability Appraisal.

It was agreed that the Recommendation would be voted on as four separate items (paragraphs A-D). Members asked for a recorded vote.

Recommendation A - Adopt the Hart Local Plan (Strategy & Sites) 2032 [Proposed Submission Version incorporating the Inspector's recommended Main Modifications (Appendix I to the report)].

FOR the Recommendation: Ambler, Axa, Bailey, Blewett, Butler, Clarke, Cockarill, Crampton, Crookes, Davies, Delaney, Dorn, Drage, Farmer, Forster, Kennett, Kinnell, Lamb, Makepeace-Browne, Neighbour, Oliver, Quarterman, Radley, Smith, Southern, Tomlinson, Wildsmith, Worlock, Wright

As this was unanimous Recommendation A was CARRIED.

Recommendation B - Agree the content of the updated April 2020 Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement (Appendix 2 to the report);

FOR the Recommendation: Ambler, Axa, Bailey, Blewett, Butler, Clarke, Cockarill, Crookes, Davies, Delaney, Dorn, Drage, Kinnell, Lamb, Makepeace-Browne, Neighbour, Oliver, Quarterman, Radley, Smith, Wildsmith, Worlock,

AGAINST the Recommendation: None

ABSTENTIONS: Crampton, Farmer, Forster, Kennett, Southern, Tomlinson, Wright

Recommendation B was therefore CARRIED.

Recommendation C - Adopt a new Policies Map for Hart that incorporates the Policies Map changes associated with adoption of the Hart Local Plan 2032;

FOR the Recommendation: Ambler, Axa, Bailey, Blewett, Butler, Clarke, Cockarill, Crampton, Crookes, Davies, Delaney, Dorn, Drage, Farmer, Forster, Kennett, Kinnell, Lamb, Makepeace-Browne, Neighbour, Oliver, Quarterman, Radley, Smith, Southern, Tomlinson, Wildsmith, Worlock, Wright

Recommendation C was therefore CARRIED.

Recommendation D - Authorise the Head of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place to make minor alterations and corrections to the Local Plan and the updated Policies Map¹

FOR the Recommendation: Ambler, Axam, Bailey, Blewett, Butler, Clarke, Cockarill, Crampton, Crookes, Davies, Delaney, Dorn, Drage, Farmer, Forster, Kennett, Kinnell, Lamb, Makepeace-Browne, Neighbour, Oliver, Quarterman, Radley, Smith, Southern, Tomlinson, Wildsmith, Worlock, Wright

Recommendation was CARRIED.

All parts of the Recommendation being carried, the Decision had been agreed as follows:

DECISION

- A. That the Hart Local Plan (Strategy & Sites) 2032 [Proposed Submission Version incorporating the Inspector's recommended Main Modifications attached at Appendix 1] be adopted.
- B. That the content of the updated April 2020 Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement at Appendix 2 be agreed.
- C. That a new Policies Map for Hart that incorporates the Policies Map changes associated with adoption of the Hart Local Plan 2032 be adopted.
- D. That the Head of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place, be authorised to make minor alterations and corrections to the Local Plan and the updated Policies Map.

The meeting closed at 7.37 pm

¹ Any alterations agreed to be circulated to Members for their information
C.53