

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 08 February 2016

Portfolio:	Planning and Development
Subject:	Local Plan Review and Fareham Town Centre & Portchester District Centre Regeneration Strategies; Proposed Member Working Group Arrangements
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regulation
Strategy/Policy:	Fareham Local Plan Review
Corporate Objective:	Protecting and Enhancing our Environment Maintaining and Extending Prosperity A Safe and Healthy Place to Live and Work Leisure for Health and for Fun A Balanced Housing Market Strong and Inclusive Communities A Dynamic, Prudent, Progressive, Best Practice Council

Purpose:
To consider and approve the proposed arrangements establishing Member Working Groups for the Local Plan Review and associated Regeneration Strategies for Fareham Town Centre and Portchester District Centre.

Executive summary:
This report outlines the proposed arrangements for Member Working Groups for the Local Plan Review and associated Regeneration Strategies for Fareham Town Centre and Portchester District Centre.

Recommendation:
That the Executive agrees the Executive Member for Planning and Development be authorised to make arrangements for the three Member Working Groups for the Local Plan Review, Fareham Town Centre and Portchester District Centre Regeneration Strategies.

Reason:

To ensure a suitable mechanism is in place for Officers to report progress to Members on key aspects of the Local Plan Review and the development of the associated Fareham Town Centre and Portchester District Centre Regeneration Strategies.

Cost of proposals:

The costs involved in operating these Member Working Groups can be met from within existing operational budgets.

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Executive Briefing Paper

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Briefing by:	Director of Planning and Regulation
Portfolio:	Planning and Development

INTRODUCTION

1. By way of background, on the 8th June 2015 the Council formally adopted both the 'Local Plan Part 2: Development Sites & Policies Plan' and the 'Local Plan Part 3: The Welborne Plan'. These adopted Plans and the adopted Core Strategy complete the suite of documents forming the Local Plan. The process of examination and adoption of these two Plans concluded in the Council formally committing to a review of the Local Plan.

Local Plan Review

2. Both adopted Local Plans (Parts 2 & 3) outlined the timescales for the future Local Plan Review. The Local Plan Review timetable was specifically programmed in a manner which incorporated the review timetable of the South Hampshire Strategy, which is referred to later in this report. The current Local Plan Review timetable is as follows:
 - Summer 2016: Consultation on Draft Plan (Regulation 18)
 - Summer 2017: Publication of Proposed Submission Plan (Regulation 19)
 - Autumn 2017: Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)
 - Winter 2017: Examination (Regulation 24)
 - Spring/Summer 2018: Adoption of Local Plan (Regulation 26)

Local Development Scheme

3. Furthermore, at the 1st September 2014 Executive, a revised version of the Local Development Scheme was approved, which came into effect from 19th September 2014. The Local Development Scheme is a programme management tool that sets out timetables for the preparation of Local Plan documents. The Planning and Compulsory Act 2004, as amended by the Planning Act 2008, and Localism Act 2011, requires each Local Planning Authority to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme.

South Hampshire Strategy (PUSH)

4. On 7th September 2015 the Executive also agreed an *'indicative timetable for the review of the Local Plan following a review of the South Hampshire Strategy by PUSH'*. The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) is responsible for producing the South Hampshire Strategy (often referred to as the Spatial Strategy).
5. Since the Local Development Scheme was approved by the Executive PUSH has reviewed its timetable for the Spatial Strategy. At the PUSH Joint Committee meeting on the 9th December 2015 a revised timetable for further work that needs to be undertaken was agreed. The revised timetable is as follows:
 - December 2015 - May 2016: Further work/testing options.
 - Early June: PUSH Joint Committee decision to approve draft Spatial Strategy
 - Early June - July 2016: Public consultation on the draft Spatial Strategy
 - September 2016: PUSH Joint Committee decision will be sought to approve the final Spatial Strategy
6. The Council will formally consider the implications of this revised PUSH timetable for the Local Plan Review timetable in due course.

Progression of the Regeneration Strategies for Fareham Town Centre and Portchester District Centre associated with the Local Plan Review

7. On the 11th January 2016 the Executive Member for Planning and Development advised the Executive that the Council would be pursuing Regeneration Strategies for both Fareham Town Centre and Portchester District Centre, which would inform the forthcoming Local Plan Review. This report is about setting up a Member Working Group for each strand of work.
8. It is important to highlight that this regeneration work will not simply focus on planning issues but will be more Corporate and wide ranging in nature. For instance, it will consider how the Council will utilise its land and property assets, as well as consider its role in delivering these regeneration visions. By their nature, the regeneration visions will be focusing on previously developed land (brown-field land) opportunities, particularly in relation to meeting increasing housing needs.

Fareham Town Centre Regeneration Strategy

9. The Member Working Group Fareham Town Centre Regeneration Strategy will be providing a steer to Officers developing a vision for the town centre. Officers will be working with Members on developing strategies to improve and enhance the town centre. Tackling key issues such as improving the retail and leisure offer for residents, businesses and visitor needs. Encouraging an evening economy and residential uses within and near the centre to increase the viability and vibrancy of the town centre, as well as improving the accessibility and attractiveness of Fareham.

Portchester District Centre Regeneration Strategy

10. Similarly, the Member Working Group for Portchester District Centre Regeneration Strategy will be providing a steer to Officers who will be developing a vision for the district centre. Officers will be working with Members on developing strategies to

improve and enhance the district centre. Tackling key issues such as improving the retail and leisure offer for residents, businesses and visitor needs. Encouraging an evening economy and residential uses within and near the centre to increase the viability and vibrancy of the district centre, as well as improving the accessibility and attractiveness of Portchester.

Local Plan Review

11. The Member Working Group Local Plan Review will provide a steer on the Local Plan Review as it progresses through to submission stage. The work of this Member Working Group will ensure that all aspects of the Local Plan Review progress. It will be informed by the planning outcomes of the Fareham Town Centre and Portchester District Centre Regeneration Strategies. For example, the Regeneration Visions will set out the Council's aspirations for housing within both areas and this will translate into the Local Plan Review. One of the first tasks of this Member Working Group, for example, will be assessing the recent 'Call for Sites' exercise.

Member Working Groups

12. This report therefore seeks approval to establish three Member Working Groups. Each of the Member Working Groups will be chaired by the Executive Member for Planning and Development and four/five other Members (totalling five/six Members).
13. This use of Member Working Groups is a similar approach to previous arrangements that worked successfully for the Development Sites & Policies Plan (Part 2) and the Welborne Plan (Part 3). It is therefore recommended that the Local Plan Review continue with this approach.
14. The Member Working Groups will operate on an informal basis and are able to adopt a flexible approach, meeting as and when needed to meet the demands of the Fareham Town Centre Regeneration Strategy, Portchester District Centre Regeneration Strategy and overarching Local Plan Review process. As under previous arrangements, the Member Working Groups will report, as work progresses, direct to the Executive.
15. They will cover three key areas of work :
 - (A) Fareham Town Centre Regeneration Strategy
 - (B) Portchester District Centre Regeneration Strategy
 - (C) Local Plan Review

Next Steps

16. One of the early tasks of each Member Working Group will be to agree a work programme. It is anticipated that the regeneration visions/strategies for Fareham Town Centre and Portchester District Centre will be consulted upon prior to the statutory consultation on the draft Local Plan (Regulation 18). Consultation on these regeneration visions/strategies will inform the formulation of the draft Local Plan.

Enquiries:

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