

VALE OF AYLESBURY PLAN (VAP) – DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce a workshop session that will be held as part of this scrutiny meeting to update Members on the work being done to prepare the Development Management (DM) policies that will come forward as the next component of the Vale of Aylesbury Plan (VAP).

2 Recommendations

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| 2.1 | Following the workshop session, the Scrutiny Committee is asked to identify the involvement they wish to have in the preparation of DM policies and, in particular, on the policies they would like to focus on. |
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3 Supporting information

- 3.1 The Vale of Aylesbury Plan was agreed by Council in October 2012 and is now undergoing statutory publicity (8 May – 19 June 2013) before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination.
- 3.2 Whilst the overriding priority of the Forward Plans Team is to support the earliest possible submission of VAP and the examination process, work has also started to prepare and progress the Development Management (DM) policies that will come forward as the next component of VAP.
- 3.3 Many of the policies used in dealing with planning applications are likely to remain broadly unchanged, whilst others will need to evolve, and there will also be new areas for DM policy development.
- 3.4 It will be imperative for any policy that is put forward to be compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other Government guidance, to be supported by evidence as appropriate, and to not prejudice the overall viability or deliverability of development in VAP.
- 3.5 The DM policies review will need to be undertaken in a structured and robust manner and will be building up a “template” approach for each policy area which asks:-
- Given NPPF and VAP Strategy policies is a further detailed policy required?
 - What do we want the policy to achieve?
 - What are the policy options for doing this?
 - Which is our preferred option?
 - How might a draft policy be worded?
- 3.6 The Chairman of this Scrutiny Committee has requested this workshop session to allow Members to explore with Officers how they can most usefully become involved in, and add value to, the process.
- 3.7 Overall, there are many policy “headings” that will need to be considered and it would be unrealistic for this Scrutiny Committee to become involved in them all. An alternative way forward might be for Members to establish a Research Group of perhaps 4 or 5 Members, who could work on these “template” questions with Officers, looking at maybe 2 to 4 policies. It is likely that the greatest value will be able to be added by focussing on new policy areas rather than areas where the existing policies remain relevant and sound and are unlikely to require much change.

- 3.8 The work of a Research Group would be undertaken in parallel with Members' forums, which would be held at appropriate times, so that all Council Members are informed of the on-going work and can provide their thoughts into the emerging process.
- 3.9 By the end of this workshop session the Scrutiny Committee is asked to agree on the involvement it wishes to have in the preparation of the DM policies, and to identify the policies they it wishes to focus on.
- 3.10 Members will be provided at the scrutiny meeting with a list of potential policy topics and information on the timetable / deadlines that would guide the work of a Research Group.

4 Resource implications

- 4.1 The DM policies are being produced within operational budgets.

5 Response to Key Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The preparation of the Vale of Aylesbury Plan is a key action in the Corporate Plan.

Contact Officer

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Background Documents

none