

## UPDATE ON THE VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the VALP Scrutiny Committee Members of the progress with the preparation of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) and to respond to any issues raised by Members following the presentation officers will give at the meeting. This presentation will provide Members with the latest position in relation to the various strands of evidence that underpin and inform the preparation of the submission version of the plan.

### 2 Recommendations

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| 2.1 | That the VALP Scrutiny Committee receives and notes the latest update in relation to the preparation of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan to be presented at the meeting. |
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### 3 Supporting information

- 3.1 Members of the committee will be aware that the timeline for the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) has recently been extended to ensure that we have all of the evidence that we need at the right time in order to inform the overall strategy and detailed policies in the submission plan. This is a necessity to ensure that the plan we submit is found 'sound' at examination.
- 3.2 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is being carried out by external consultants, and unfortunately this piece of evidence has not progressed to our envisaged timetable. This is in part due to the very complex nature and number of variables associated with the emerging VALP because of the scale of growth to be planned for in the district and the range of options that therefore need to be considered in the SA.
- 3.3 Members of the Committee will be aware that this is a critical piece of evidence which has to feed into the content of the plan, and as such, we must ensure that there is sufficient time for the appraisal to be done properly and then be considered by us in terms of the submission plan that is presented to Council. It is important to emphasise that this is an incredibly complex plan, which will affect the Vale for generations to come, and that getting it right is our absolute priority.
- 3.4 The Leader and his Cabinet therefore agreed that the timescale for submitting the VALP should be amended accordingly. The new timetable is laid out as follows:
- VALP Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 6.30pm 26<sup>th</sup> September  
Cabinet – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
Council – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017
- 3.5 Work on finalising the plan will continue during the summer, including continuing the discussions with key stakeholders to ensure we have addressed any issues they may have. As previously, the plan will then be published for public comment and the advantage is that the consultation period will not now need to be held over the summer holiday period, which will hopefully make it easier for residents, town and parish councils and other interested parties to respond to the consultation.

- 3.6 Following the six week consultation, we then have to pull together the consultation responses and send these together with the submission plan to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2018, which is two months later than previously publicised. DCLG have informally advised us that their priority is to ensure we are progressing with a sound plan, and that they would be comfortable with a short extension of our timetable of around two months. The Planning Inspectorate will then advise us when we are likely to be scheduled for examination, which we expect to be in mid 2018.
- 3.7 In addition to the latest information regarding the key evidence to support the VALP, Officers will also provide an update at the meeting on the latest position in relation to the Duty to Co-operate (DTC) discussions with our adjoining authorities and the respective timings of our DTC partners in respect of their emerging plans.
- 3.8 For the latest update on the plan and the latest evidence sets that support the plan please visit the relevant pages on our website which can be found at; <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/section/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-valp>

Contact Officer	Charlotte Stevens - 01296 585982
Background Documents	None