

CONSULTATION ON SITES FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION

LDF ADVISORY GROUP - 7 SEPTEMBER 2011

Report of the: Director of Community and Planning Services

Status: For Consideration

Key Decision: No

This report supports all of the Key Aims of the Community Plan

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Jill Davison

Head of Service Head of Development Services – Jim Kehoe

Recommendation: It be RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Green Infrastructure, Open Space, Sport and Recreation sites be agreed and published for consultation
 - (b) the Portfolio Holder be authorised to agree minor changes prior to publication to assist the clarity of the document
 - (c) copies to be made available electronically and in hard copy at a price to be agreed with the Portfolio Holder
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Reason for recommendation:

To progress the Council's Local Development Framework

Introduction

- 1 Following adoption of the Core Strategy, the second development plan document that is being prepared as part of the LDF is the Allocations and Development Management DPD (ADM DPD). This document will identify sites to achieve the aims of the Core Strategy and contain a series of generic policies against which planning applications will be determined.
- 2 Consultation has previously taken place on site allocations related to land for housing, employment and mixed use development in Spring 2010. Consultation on draft Development Management policies took place in May-August 2011.
- 3 The attached document relates to a supplementary consultation on sites to be protected for Green Infrastructure, Open Space, Sport and Recreation. The sites were identified by the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study,

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published in January 2009, which was based on an audit of open space provision and provided an evidence base for the Core Strategy.

- 4 As there was little response to calls for sites for open space in previous rounds of consultation, this consultation provides a further opportunity to comment on the proposed open space allocations and a further opportunity to identify any additional land for open space. It also invites any proposals for Local Green Space, which is a new commitment set out in the Government's Natural Environment White Paper, to allow local communities to designate important local green space.
- 5 There are two sites where it is proposed to remove the previous open space policy protection, known as 'EN9' after the related Local Plan policy. This is because they are either subject to an approved development scheme, or have been allocated for development via the draft ADM DPD. These sites are:
 - Sevenoaks – site south of Rockdale – planning permission for care-home development.
 - Westerham – site off London Road (previous Churchill school site) – allocated for development.
- 6 It is intended to run this consultation from the end of September for six weeks. Details of the consultation will be publicised by a press release and the documents will be available online on the Council's website, in libraries and at the Council offices and notification of the consultation will be sent to town and parish councils and to organisations and individuals on our mailing list.
- 7 The comments received as part of this consultation will be considered by SDC and it is the intention to publish a final version of the ADM DPD in spring 2012, for pre-submission consultation and independent examination.

Other Options

8. The options are to agree, vary or reject the open space sites for Consultation. The sites will form part of the LDF. Overall it is considered that the sites for consultation are appropriate to assist in achieving the detailed objectives of the Core Strategy.

Key Implications

Financial

9. Budgetary provision has been made for the cost involved in preparing the Allocations and Development Management DPD. Combining the Allocations and development policies into one document will achieve a significant budget saving in publication and examination costs compared with maintaining two separate DPDs.

Community Impact and Outcomes

10. The preparation of this consultation has had close regard to the Community Strategy vision to create a green and healthy environment. The allocation of sites for open space is consistent with the aims of the Core Strategy DPD and Community Strategy and contributes to the implementation of many of the Community Strategy priorities. The designation and protect of open space should lead to a wide range of positive outcomes for the community.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

11. The preparation of an LDF is a requirement under planning legislation. The adopted Allocations and Development Management DPD will form part of the “Development Plan” and has special status in the determination of planning applications. There are requirements regarding notification of interested parties and the production of a statutory notice at the adoption stage and these procedures will be followed.

Equality Impacts

12. An updated Equality Impact Assessment was carried out for the Core Strategy in accordance with Council policy. The allocation of open space sites is in conformity with the Core Strategy, however an independent Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out as the document moves towards publication stage. The findings of the Core Strategy appraisal have been taken into account in finalising this document.

Sustainability Checklist

13. A Sustainability Appraisal report on the Allocations Options document and Draft Development Management Policies has been carried out in accordance with Government guidance. A Sustainability Appraisal has also been prepared for this open spaces consultation which has been made available.

Conclusions

14. It is recommended that the sites to be protected for Green Infrastructure, Open Space, Sport and Recreation, which will form part of the Allocations and Development Management DPD, be agreed for public consultation.

Risk Assessment Statement

15. LDF documents are subject to independent examination and the principal risk involved with their preparation is that the examination finds the document to be unsound. The Allocations and Development Management DPD must be in accordance with the Core Strategy and other parts of the development plan and national planning guidance, however at this stage the document is at informal consultation stage seeking the views of key stakeholders in accordance with the Council’s Statement of Community Involvement

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Attached Documents

Appendix A – Consultation document

Appendix B – List of open space sites

Appendix C – Site Maps (due to the size of the maps it was not possible to reproduce them with the agenda. They are available to view on CMIS and paper copies will be displayed at the meeting)

Appendix D – Sustainability Appraisal

Contact Officer(s):

Hannah Gooden, 7178

Kristen Paterson - Community and Planning Services Director