


13 October 2022 at 7.00 pm

Council Chamber, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks



# Cabinet

## Supplementary Agenda

	Pages	Contact
5. <b>Local Plan - Regulation 18 - Consultation</b>	Replacement Pages 9 - 10	Hannah Gooden Tel: 01732 227178
		
6. <b>Leader Programme Closure Report</b>	Replacement Page 171	Detlev Munster Tel: 01732227099
7. <b>Capital Schemes Programme Update</b>	Replacement Page 245	Detlev Munster Tel: 01732227099

If you wish to obtain further factual information on any of the agenda items listed above, please contact the named officer prior to the day of the meeting.

Should you need this agenda or any of the reports in a different format, or have any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact Democratic Services on 01732 227000 or [democratic.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk).



## **Item 05 - Local Plan - Regulation 18 - Consultation**

The attached report was considered by the Development & Conservation Advisory Committee on 11 October 2022. The relevant Minute extract is below.

### **Local Plan - Regulation 18 - Consultation (11 October 2022, Minute 18)**

The report was presented by the Planning Policy Team Leader and the Strategic Planning Manager, who outlined the draft of the Local Plan to be issued for consultation. The Plan covered the period up to 2040, and emphasised making best use of land in existing settlements. The plan focuses on the key themes of promoting health and well-being, delivering Net Zero and supporting high quality design. They advised that the draft Plan listed three tiers of development density, but that these would be further refined in each case to ensure development respects local character and the environment.

They outlined the Community Involvement measures of the Consultation. In addition to the Council's website, mailing list, and social media accounts, the Plan would be publicised on a new consultation portal. Three drop-in sessions would be held in person in the urban centres of the District, with an additional session over Zoom. Commuters and secondary schools would be specifically targeted also to ensure the Council received feedback from those demographics, as they had previously been under-represented in responses.

They updated the Committee on the evidence base for the Local Plan. The Character Study had been completed and was due to be published shortly. The Strategic Transport Study baseline stage is complete and junction modelling is currently underway where the gap analysis had identified data gaps. The second stage of assessing the impact of the planned growth across the District, will take place in 2023.

They further updated the Committee on the discussions with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities (DLUHC). The Draft did not contain finalised policies, but instead aimed to establish whether the scope and coverage of the plan was sufficient. This allowed the Council to respond to changes in national planning policy as they occurred. In response to questions, they outlined the measures to make the Plan accessible and prevent technical knowledge from being a barrier to participation in the Consultation.

They further explained the role of the Character Study in evidencing local context and density. It would allow the Council to take an active role in assessing the capacity of sites for development, by identifying sensitivity to change within an area.

The Committee discussed the role of schools in the Consultation process, and the possibility of addressing a larger number of them. They heard that providing resources to more schools would be looked into, and that it was important to encourage responses from this younger demographic as they tended to be underrepresented in previous consultations. They further discussed the inclusion of specific encouragement of renewable energy and sustainable design in the Plan.

Resolved: That the report be noted, and that the Committee recommend to Cabinet that

- a. The content of the “Plain Text Version” of the Regulation 18 Consultation Draft Local Plan at Appendix 1 be approved for public consultation purposes;
- b. The presentation and formatting style of the consultation document, as reflected in the Indicative Formatted Version at Appendix 2, be agreed;
- c. The authority to approve the final formatting and presentation of the Regulation 18 Consultation Draft Local Plan and any minor preconsultation text changes, be delegated to the Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services and the Development & Conservation Portfolio Holder; and
- d. The withdrawal of the December 2018 Regulation 19 Proposed Submission version of the Local Plan, which was submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2019, be recommended to Council before the Regulation 18 Consultation Draft is issued for consultation.

## **Item 06 - Leader Programme Closure Report**

The attached report was considered by the Development & Conservation Advisory Committee on 4 October 2022. The relevant Minute extract is below.

### **Leader Programme Closure Report (4 October 2022, Minute 17)**

The Leader Project Officer presented the report on the closure of the LEADER programme. The national programme was due to end this year, and the Council had been managing the closure of the West Kent program. The West Kent programme had been awarded £1.8 million, and had gained £2.7 million in match funding.

He advised the Committee that lessons learned from the LEADER programme would inform how future rural funding systems would be managed locally. This would involve a local-led decision making body drawn from the private, public, and the third sector, and a simple application process for smaller projects.

He then gave a presentation on some of the successfully funded projects.

In response to questions, the Strategic Head for Commercial and Property outlined the proposed application process for the future Rural England Prosperity Fund. He advised the Committee that although administration of the fund would be shared across West Kent, the funding the Council received would be ring-fenced for projects in the District.

He further outlined the scrutiny processes for the LEADER programme. All claims were conducted in stages, and evidence was required for each stage. A site visit was also conducted for each scheme to ensure funds were spent appropriately. The Committee discussed the ways in which the LEADER programme was publicised, and the importance of Local Action Groups in advertising and delivering grants.

Resolved: That

- a) the findings of the report and the on-going auditing requirements regarding post-payment monitoring and file retention, be noted;
- b) the 2014 LEADER programme's successful awarding of £1,812,550 of grant funding to rural businesses in West Kent, which in turn leveraged over £4.5m of investment into the sub-region's economy, be noted; and
- c) the Government's awarding of Rural England Prosperity Funding to Sevenoaks District Council, and the Council's plan to apply the good practices learnt from the LEADER Programme and build on its Legacy, be noted.



## **Item 07 - Capital Schemes Programme Update**

The attached report was considered by the Development & Conservation Advisory Committee on 4 October 2022. The relevant Minute extract is below.

### **Capital Schemes Programme Update (4 October 2022, Minute 18)**

The Strategic Head for Commercial and Property presented the report and updated the Committee on the Council's Capital Schemes.

The White Oak Leisure Centre car park was completed, and the Council were in the process of finalising management agreements prior to its public opening. The project had hit its key milestones within schedule. The White Oak Residential scheme involved modern methods of construction and further detailed design work would be undertaken.

Further feasibility and design work was being undertaken for Farmstead Drive, with another public consultation envisaged at the end of 2022. Comments from the public consultation in April 2022 were built on to produce the current plan.

The Otford Road development scheme was focused on providing additional employment-use land, following feedback from local agents, Locating Kent, and the Economic Development Team. Work on the feasibility of a business park for small and medium sized enterprises was underway.

The Committee discussed the availability of amenity spaces within the District and the impact upon these by the Council's Capital Schemes.

Resolved: That the Council's progress in establishing and delivering a 10 year capital schemes programme that would generate new homes, regenerate the District's town centres, improve the public realm and provide new civic amenities, which promote health and well-being, and support the District's economy, be noted.

