

## LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

Development and Conservation Advisory Committee - 15 October 2019

Report of Chief Planning & Regulatory Services Officer

Status For information

Key Decision No

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**Executive Summary:** This report provides an update on the Local Plan examination process.

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**This report supports the Key Aim of:** Protecting the Green Belt and Supporting and developing the local economy

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr Julia Thornton

**Contact Officers** Hannah Gooden Ext. 7178 / James Gleave Ext. 7326

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**Recommendation:** That Development and Conservation Advisory Committee notes the report.

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**Reason for recommendation:** To provide an update on progress on the Local Plan.

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### Background and introduction

- 1 As a reminder, once adopted the new Local Plan will replace the Core Strategy (2011) and the Allocations and Development Management Plan (ADMP 2015). It will be used to determine planning applications, as well as setting out the strategic land allocations which will help to meet the development needs of the District over the plan period, up to 2035. The Local Plan is based on well documented and recent local evidence and will be examined in public by an independent Inspector. The primary purpose of the examination is to determine that the plan meets the tests of soundness.
- 2 In July Members received a report which provided an overview of the examination process and a recap on the contents of the submitted Local Plan.

### Submission

- 3 Following the decision of Full Council on 26 March, the Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on 30 April.

## Examination

- 4 The examination is currently being conducted by an independent Inspector, appointed by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), Karen Baker DipTP MA DipMP MRTPI, and commenced on Tuesday 24 September 2019 and are being held at the Stag Theatre.
- 5 We have a Programme Officer (Louise St John Howe), acting as the impartial intermediary, between the Council, representors and the Inspector.
- 6 All the submitted documents are available to view online on our dedicated examination pages: [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/localplanexamination](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/localplanexamination)

## Supporting Information

- 7 A number of additional documents have been prepared to support the Plan. These are all available to view online [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/localplanexamination](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/localplanexamination) and include:
  - Statement of Main Issues
  - Duty to Co-operate Statement
  - Statements of Common Ground
  - Topic Papers
  - Schedule of Amendments

## Key Implications

### Financial

Production of the Local Plan will be funded from the Local Plan reserve.

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

Preparation of a Local Plan is a statutory requirement. There are defined legal requirements that must be met in plan making which are considered when the plan is examined by a Government Planning Inspector. Risks associated with Local Plan making are set out in the Local Development Scheme

### Equality Assessment

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different

