

**Date Published: 20 March 2024**

**Any decision in the minutes below will come into force, and may be implemented, on the expiry of three clear working days after the publication of the decision, unless a valid request has been received by the Head of Paid Service objecting to the decision and asking for it to be called in.**

## **CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 11th March, 2024  
at 7.00 pm in The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Westgate, Canterbury**

**Present:** Councillor Alan Baldock(Chair)  
Councillor Charlotte Cornell  
Chris Cornell  
Mel Dawkins  
Pip Hazelton  
Connie Nolan

**In attendance  
as observers** Councillor Alister Brady  
Dane Buckman  
Rachel Carnac  
Pat Edwards  
Paul Prentice  
Naomi Smith  
David Thomas

**Officers:** Vanessa - Democratic Services Manager  
Montgomery  
Peter Davies - Director of Strategy and Improvement  
Richard Moore - Head of Transport and Environment  
Andrew - Principal Planning Officer (Policy)  
Thompson  
Leo Whitlock - Head of Policy and Communications  
Jan Gaylor - Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer

#### **609 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Sole and Ricketts.

#### **610 DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS**

The Director of Strategy and Improvement made an announcement that gave further advice regarding the declaration of DPs and OSIs for permission to consult on the local plan and associated documents.

There were no declarations for the meeting.

611 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements

612 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were five public speakers to be heard for item 6 and one for item 7.

613 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2024**

The minutes were agreed as a true record by general assent.

614 **PERMISSION TO CONSULT ON THE DRAFT CANTERBURY DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN TO 2040 AND THE DRAFT SUSTAINABLE DESIGN GUIDE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT AND APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (2024)**

(Five public speakers were heard at the commencement of the item Julia Kirby-Smith, Councillor Pat Edwards, Daniel Pellecchia, Jason Marshall and Grahame Harrison)

Councillor Alan Baldock, the Leader, introduced the report asking for the approval to conduct a consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 on a revised draft Canterbury District Local Plan To 2040. To also consult on the draft Sustainable Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document under Regulations 12 and 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the revised Local Development Scheme.

The Cabinet discussed the report and clarification was provided where needed by the Director of Strategy and Improvement, the Head of Policy and Communications and the Lead Corporate Policy and Strategy Manager.

The following points were made:

- Thanks was given to the hard and very much valued work of the cross party Local Plan Working Group.
- Commended the strengthening of climate change and biodiversity in the plan.
- The process of consultation was confirmed, consultation can be made through speaking tonight, online surveys, drop in events and then a technical assessment with the results be fed back councillors and then the planning inspectorate
- Cabinet encouraged members of the public to feed into the consultation.
- Land north of University was rejected previously mainly due to no suitable access strategy back in July 2022, since then the land promoter has put forward additional evidence to be able to secure land for a secondary access.
- The strategic land availability assessment has been updated and used to inform this plan.
- Settlement hierarchy is undertaken to understand which rural areas are suitable for an area of growth, proportionate to the services.
- A query was raised regarding the clarification of land on the map on page 87 that is marked as woodland and a buffer between proposed site and Tyler Hill, as it appears to be open grazing fields rather than woodland

- Flood plains were an increasing worry that impact insurance and direction would be given to developers on how to mitigate the risks
- The strategic flood risk assessment has been updated and included in the plan no residential development would be included on a flood plain.
- The only proposed site partially within a flood zone is the Wincheap redevelopment and then the vulnerable users would be moved away from the flood area.
- An overview was given of the sustainable design guide.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote RESOLVED:

1. To conduct a consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 on the revised draft Canterbury District Local Plan to 2040 (Appendix A) as set out in this report
2. To conduct a consultation under Regulations 12 and 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 on the draft Sustainable Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (Appendix B) as set out in this report
3. To approve the revised Local Development Scheme (Appendix C) as set out in this report
4. A compliance officer role is created in 2025/26 to monitor and manage the delivery of strategic sites, post-planning consent, to ensure adherence with delivery targets, infrastructure delivery and planning consent obligations, including environmental standards and open spaces. Funded through additional fee levies afforded to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023

Record of the vote:

For (7): Councillors Alan Baldock, Charlotte Cornell, Chris Cornell, Mel Dawkins, Michael Dixey, Pip Hazelton and Connie Nolan

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Reason for the decision: The development of a draft Local Plan and associated documents is complex and fraught with legal implications and challenge. The establishment of a Cabinet-sponsored all-party working group has mitigated these issues by ensuring councillors and officers could work confidentially and openly on the issues and needs of a viable Local Plan for the district over the course of many months. As such the final draft documents present a detailed and legally compliant draft Local Plan for which Cabinet can commit to further public consultation and scrutiny

## 615 **DRAFT TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

(A public speaker Grahame Harrison spoke at the commencement of the item)

Councillor Alan Baldock, the Leader, the report that introduced the draft Canterbury District Transport Strategy and sought authority to consult.

The Cabinet discussed the report and clarification was provided where needed by the Head of Transport and Environment. The following points were made:

- Sturry Park and Ride was to be reopened as promised and the city zones were removed.
- Need to look carefully at where buses need to be in order to serve new developments.
- This plan is a genuine bus led strategy

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote RESOLVED:

That the draft Transport Strategy be approved for public consultation and that results are reported to a future meeting.

Record of the vote:

For (7): Councillors Alan Baldock, Charlotte Cornell, Chris Cornell, Mel Dawkins, Michael Dixey, Pip Hazelton and Connie Nolan

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Reason for the decision:

It is important that the draft Canterbury District Transport Strategy and its appendices are approved for consultation as the documents support the draft Local Plan and its programme of consultation.

## 616 DRAFT OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Councillor Charlotte Cornell, Cabinet member for heritage, open space, waste and recycling introduced the report that sought recommendation from Cabinet to include the Open Space Strategy within the Local Plan Reg 18 consultations.

The Cabinet discussed the report and clarification was provided where needed by the Director of Strategy and Improvement. The following points were made:

- This strategy is a stronger form of the first draft which was very popular so we were building upon that feedback
- Hugely important strategy for the quality of life of local communities.
- Important that stewardship models rather than management company models are considered

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote RESOLVED:

That the Canterbury Open Space Strategy (2024 - 2040) is included in the Reg 18 Local Plan consultation and that responses are reviewed and the strategy amended as appropriate.

Record of the vote:

For (7): Councillors Alan Baldock, Charlotte Cornell, Chris Cornell, Mel Dawkins, Michael Dixey, Pip Hazelton and Connie Nolan

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Reason for the decision: The strategy is a key evidence document to the Reg 18 Local Plan. Failure to consult on the strategy will undermine the robustness of the Reg 18 process and will expose the process to challenge. Not including the Open Space Strategy in the Local Plan consultation would not be consistent with the council's Biodiversity Emergency declaration.

617 **DRAFT AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN**

Councillor Mel Dawkins, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity introduced the report that sought Cabinet's permission to conduct a consultation on the Draft Air Quality Action Plan (Appendix A).

The Cabinet discussed the report and clarification was provided where needed by the Director of Strategy and Improvement. The following points were made:

- A local primary school has a sign displayed asking vehicles to turn off the engine when stationary but does this have an impact? We need to tackle these issues to improve air quality.
- Aware some members of the public cannot afford to change their vehicle to electric, but this strategy alongside the transport strategy goes some way to help.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote RESOLVED:

To conduct a consultation on the Draft Air Quality Action Plan (Appendix A).

Record of the vote:

For (7): Councillors Alan Baldock, Charlotte Cornell, Chris Cornell, Mel Dawkins, Michael Dixey, Pip Hazelton and Connie Nolan

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Reason for the decision: The development of the draft Air Quality Action Plan has been informed by technical evidence and through partnership working and the officer steering group. The current Air Quality Action Plan covers the period 2018 - 2023, so it is important that we develop and implement a new plan for the next five years, and consultation on the draft Air Quality Action Plan is the next stage in this process.

618 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

619 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS TO BE DEALT WITH IN PUBLIC**

620 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

621 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS WHICH FALLS UNDER THE EXEMPT PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 OR THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 OR BOTH**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm