

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes and report to Council of the virtual meeting of the Committee held on the 18th March 2021 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Jecks (Chair), Duck (Vice-Chair), Sayer (Vice-Chair), Black, Bloore, Botten, Dennis, Farr, Jones, Lockwood, Swann and Vickers

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Allen, Connolly, Davies, Langton, Mills, Ridge, Steeds, C.White and N.White

303. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 1ST FEBRUARY 2021

Subject to the addition of the following paragraph within Minute 259, the minutes were approved as a correct record:

“Councillor Elias, the Leader of the Council, undertook to give a fortnightly update on his conversations with Claire Coutinho MP regarding the upgrade of Junction 6 of the M25”.

Note: Following a subsequent review of the webcast of the 1st February 2021 meeting, it transpired that, in fact, the discussion referred to above took place at the Committee’s 20th January 2021 meeting and that, therefore, the minutes of the 1st February meeting have not been amended.

304. PLANNING POLICY FINANCE REPORT - MONTH 10

A report concerning the Committee’s revenue budget as at the end of January 2021 (month 10) was presented. A £207,000 underspend against the baseline budget of £1.338 million was projected. This position was unchanged from the previous month and included a £400,000 underspend on the Local Plan, offset by an estimated £251,000 reduction in planning fee income.

RESOLVED – that the Committee’s forecast revenue budget position for the year be noted.

305. LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

A report was presented to update the Committee on the high-level transport capacity modelling regarding Junction 6 of the M25, together with Neighbourhood Plan matters.

The report advised that transport consultants had been appointed to undertake the Junction 6 capacity modelling and that contact had also been made with Surrey County Highways and Highways England to secure their involvement in both the modelling and the Council’s response to the Planning Inspector’s post-hearing request (ID13) for an updated statement of common ground. The Committee was advised that the relevant parties had met to agree a programme for the modelling work which was scheduled for completion by the end of May. The programme for the work had been issued to the Inspector (TED44) and was published on the Council’s website.

Regarding the Caterham, Chaldon and Whyteleafe Neighbourhood Plan, the Committee was advised of an error in the referendum version agreed by the Committee on the 24th September 2020. It was confirmed that the Neighbourhood Planning Group had agreed and supported an amendment to the Plan. Updates were also provided regarding the progression of the Neighbourhood Plans for the parishes of Tatsfield, Dormansland and Limpsfield.

Councillor Botten, seconded by Councillor Jones, proposed an additional resolution for the Chair to write to Claire Coutinho MP to seek her assistance in progressing the Junction 6 issue referred to above. Both Members were of the opinion that the matter did not appear to be receiving the necessary high-level attention and that the commitment given by Leader (at the 20th January 2021 meeting) to provide fortnightly updates to the Committee had not been fulfilled. Upon being put to the vote, this was agreed. However, Councillor Duck advised that the MP was engaged in the process and that relevant work was taking place. He undertook to make enquiries and report back to the Chair.

Members thanked Marie Killip (Strategy Specialist) for her efforts in leading the Local Plan process in recent weeks.

RESOLVED – that:

- A. the report be noted; and
- B. the Chair of the Committee write to Claire Coutinho MP to seek to secure her support in securing leverage over the improvements to Junction 6.

Rising 8.08 pm