

# ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON UPON THAMES

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## STRATEGIC HOUSING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**28 MARCH 2019**

**7:30 pm – 10:00 pm**

Councillor Malcolm Self (Chair)  
Councillor Emily Davey (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Roy Arora  
Councillor Fiona Boulton\*  
Councillor Tim Cobbett  
Councillor Emily Davey  
Councillor Sam Foulder-Hughes  
Councillor Lesley Heap  
Councillor Jon Tolley  
Councillor Sharon Young

\* Absent and gave apologies

### Advisory members (non-Voting) in attendance:

Leaseholders joint representative

Hector Armando Rosales-Macedo

Registered providers representative

Tim Willcocks

### **37. Public Questions**

A number of residents addressed the Committee to raise questions. One resident queried why planning application information was available for inspection by residents on the Council's website. The resident raised concern that once planning applications had been approved they were no longer available to view. In response it was explained that a new planning data system was being used by the Council. The new system ensured that all recent planning applications were compliant with data protection and GDPR legislation and gives functionality to officers to redact information where necessary. Unfortunately at present some historical information was not compliant and therefore had been removed from the website. It was explained that this information was available upon request.

A resident spoke in relation to the Early Engagement on the Local Plan item and queried how much greenbelt would be designated for development and how much was for consultation. It was explained that all the sites in the report were for consultation and this was to build evidence from resident views on the sites presented.

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**38. Apologies for Absence and Attendance of Substitute Members**

Apologies were received from Councillors Fiona Boulton and Andreas Kirsch and Advisory Members Tom Wood, Margaret Lloyd, Maria Wise and Harry Hall.

**39. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**40. Early Engagement on the Local Plan**

**Appendix A**

Members considered a report which sought consultation on the Early Engagement (Regulation 18) Draft and Site Assessments for a new Local Plan for the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, as set out in Annexes 1 and 2 of the Committee report. Members noted the final designed version which was tabled. It was reported that the new Local Plan, when agreed, would supersede the Kingston's Core Strategy 2012, and the Kingston Town Centre Area Action Plan (K+20) 2008.

It was explained that this was the first public stage of consultation and development of a new local plan, which was statutory and would seek the views of Kingston's varied communities and stakeholders about the future of the borough from 2019 to 2041.

The Committee noted that The Early Engagement document (formerly known as Issues and Options) and the Site Assessments were approved for consultation by the Strategic Housing and Planning Committee (SHAP) on the 8 November 2018. The decision was further considered by the Scrutiny Panel on 20 December 2018 following the submission of a Community Call-In. The Panel determined that the documents required more explanation and were incomplete. It was recommended that the final draft of the consultation document should return to a future meeting of the Strategic Housing and Planning Committee for consideration.

A number of members of the public raised concerns with the consultation documents. Particular concern was centred on why the Council had not challenged the 30,008 housing target, as set out in the Draft London Plan, for the 2019-2041 plan period. There were also questions raised as to why the Kingston had been designated an 'opportunity area'.

By way of response it was explained that the Council had challenged the Housing target figures outlined in the Draft London Plan. It was explained that in order to mitigate any risk the Early Engagement needs to consult on a likely housing target, as the final targets were currently unknown, the current draft Local Plan, outlined in Annex 1 of the report, included those target figures. Officers explained that only the Mayor of London could designate opportunity areas but that the boundary is agreed at a local level and there is a question on this in the Early Engagement.

Many residents spoke against the list of potential development sites in Annex 2. By way of response it was explained that the sites shown in Annex 2 were not active developments and were merely a result of a 'Call for Sites consultation' which ran in 2017. It was explained that landowners, developers, agents and the public were

invited to put forward sites for consideration, which could have potential to contribute towards future development in the Local Plan and help address Kingston's future need for housing, economy and employment, education, healthcare and other uses. There are also sites from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. It was emphasised that the upcoming consultation was an opportunity for the Council to build local evidence on the suitability of each site and whether to take forward in the Local Plan. Residents were encouraged to take part in the consultation to raise their concerns on particular sites offered.

Voting:

For: Councillors Malcolm Self (Chair), Emily Davey (Vice-Chair), Tim Cobbett, Sam Foulder-Hughes, Lesley Heap, Jon Tolley and Sharon Young. (7)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Councillors Roy Arora and Nicola Sheppard. (2)

#### 41. Local Development Scheme

#### Appendix B

Members considered a report which sought the approval of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which established a work programme to produce Kingston's Local Plan. Members noted that the Council had a statutory duty to prepare, monitor and review its planning policy. Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required the Council to set out its current planning policy documents and any new or replacement documents it intended to produce, and list them in the Local Development Scheme.

There had been significant changes to the planning system in the period since Kingston's 2016 Local Development Scheme was approved, most notably the production of the draft new London Plan in 2017 and the revised National Planning Policy Framework in 2019. It was explained that the updated Local Development Scheme covered the period from spring 2019 to winter 2021/22.

Members noted that the new Local Plan would set out the overall development strategy for the Borough for the period 2019-2041. It would include both strategic policies and non-strategic policies, and would provide the policy context for Neighbourhood Plans. It would also identify site allocations for different forms of land use, to aid the designation of land for all key uses and to afford protection through designations such as Green Belt or Metropolitan Open Land.

**Resolved** that the Local Development Scheme (Annex 1) setting out the work required to deliver the Local Plan, be approved.

Voting:

28 MARCH 2019

For: Councillors Malcolm Self (Chair), Emily Davey (Vice-Chair), Tim Cobbett, Sam Foulder-Hughes, Lesley Heap, Jon Tolley and Sharon Young. (7)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Councillors Roy Arora and Nicola Sheppard. (2)

**42. Urgent Items Authorised by the Chair**

There were no urgent items.

Signed.....Date.....  
Chair