

Minutes

of a special meeting of the

Council

held on Monday 19 November 2018 at 7.00 pm

at The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY



Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Monica Lovatt (Chairman), Ben Mabbett (Vice-Chairman), Alice Badcock, Mike Badcock, Matthew Barber, Eric Batts, Ed Blagrove, Yvonne Constance, Roger Cox, Margaret Crick, Charlotte Dickson, St John Dickson, Robert Hall, Jenny Hannaby, Anthony Hayward, Dudley Hoddinott, Simon Howell, Vicky Jenkins, Bob Johnston, Mohinder Kainth, Sandy Lovatt, Chris Palmer, Helen Pighills, Julia Reynolds, Judy Roberts, Emily Smith, Reg Waite, Elaine Ware and Catherine Webber

Officers: Steven Corrigan, Adrian Duffield, Holly Jones, and Margaret Reed

Number of members of the public: 4

Co.38 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Gervase Duffield, Debby Hallett, Chris McCarthy and Robert Sharp.

Co.39 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest

None.

Co.40 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

The chairman provided housekeeping information.

Co.41 Public participation

None.

Co.42 Local Plan 2031 Part 2 - Inspector's initial post hearing letter

Council considered Cabinet's recommendation, made at its special meeting on 16 November 2018, for a proposed response to the Planning Inspector's initial post hearing letter relating to the proposed allocation of Dalton Barracks.

In moving Cabinet's recommendation Councillor Roger Cox, Leader of the council and Cabinet member for planning, reminded councillors that Council had submitted the Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) for examination in February 2018 and that the Examination in Public took place in July and September this year. Further work was done during

the examination by supplying topic papers to the Inspector at his request, which amplified the council's approach and modifications to various topics which are in the examination library and are public documents.

The Inspector's letter, dated 30 October 2018, was published in the councillor newsletter 'In focus'. He stressed that the item before Council was to consider the Inspector's request for an amended approach to the Dalton Barracks site and was not a re-examination of LLP2. However, it is quite possible that further modifications will be needed for other parts of the plan later in the process.

The report to Cabinet set out three options:

- Continue with the whole scheme.
- Modify the scheme to meet the plan period.
- Discard the site altogether.

In order to satisfy the Inspector's request for a modified approach to the Dalton Barracks site, Cabinet recommended Option 2 as the preferred option which would reduce the size of the development, retain the MOD playing fields and Starveal Farm within the green belt, and provide a site capable of taking 1,200 homes within the timescale.¹¹ topic papers underpin the recommendation with two pieces of additional work required on transport and air quality, which have been commissioned.

Councillor Cox advised that the council has submitted a 'Bid' to join the Garden Communities Programme which, if successful, would help to further enhance the development. Details will be published shortly.

The majority of councillors supported the recommendation. Some expressed the view that, whilst the council still has no sound LLP2 with further modifications likely, of the three options available, and given the time pressure the council is under, Option 2 provides the most sensible way forward.

A number of councillors noted that the Inspector had made a number of requested modifications following questions raised regarding the soundness of LLP2 in relation to the inadequate transport infrastructure to support housing at Dalton Barracks and Abingdon Airfield, deletion of the bus road through Sunningwell and not removing Shippon village from the green belt. The number of homes required in South-East Vale had been reduced with Oxford's unmet need treated as a working assumption.

In response to questions Councillor Cox confirmed that, although in the hands of the Inspector in terms of timescale, he has a high degree of optimism that following the adoption of Local Plan Part 1 in 2016 the council can achieve a date of 31 December 2018 for modifications and adoption of LLP2 by 31 March 2019. He acknowledged that the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal requires all partner authorities to have local plans in place by April 2019, in order to take forward the work of the Growth Deal for the benefit of Oxfordshire and reiterated that Vale of White Horse was on track and ahead of the other authorities.

In response to concerns regarding the resources to undertake the additional work required, Councillor Cox responded that the work would be undertaken within existing resources and that no concerns had been raised by officers. He advised that any modifications will be subject to the normal six week consultation period.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 67, which provides for a recorded vote if three members request one, the Chairman called for a recorded vote on the motion which was declared carried with the voting as follows:

Vale of White Horse District Council – Council minutes

For	Against	Abstentions
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Alice Badcock		
Mike Badcock		
Matthew Barber		
Eric Batts		
Edward Blagrove		
Yvonne Constance		
Roger Cox		
Margaret Crick		
Charlotte Dickson		
St John Dickson		
Robert Hall		
Jenny Hannaby		
Anthony Hayward		
Dudley Hoddinott		
Simon Howell		
Vicky Jenkins		
Bob Johnston		
Mohinder Kainth		
Monica Lovatt		
Sandy Lovatt		
Ben Mabbett		
Chris Palmer		
Helen Pighills		
Julia Reynolds		
Judy Roberts		
Emily Smith		
Reg Waite		
Elaine Ware		
Catherine Webber		
Total: 29	Total: 0	Total: 0

RESOLVED:

To respond to the Planning Inspector presiding over the Local Plan 2031: Part 2 Examination confirming that Option 2, as set out below, is supported. A draft letter to the Planning Inspector is appended to the head of planning's report to Cabinet on 16 November 2018, along with a proposed modification to Core Policy 8b: Dalton Barracks and a simple summary signposting to the existing evidence base.

Inspector's Option (Option 2): "Allocate a specific site (or sites) at Dalton Barracks for the housing proposed during the plan period, with the Green Belt designation deleted from the site(s) concerned and no more. In this case there would be no presumption that any further development would take place on the wider site unless brought forward and justified in a future local plan".

The meeting closed at 7:20pm