

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Cabinet

held on Friday 16 November 2018 at 10.30 am

in the Meeting Room 1, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, OX14 4SB



Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Roger Cox (Chairman), Ed Blagrove (Vice-Chairman), Alice Badcock, Eric Batts, Mike Murray and Elaine Ware

Officers: Steve Culliford, Andrew Down, Adrian Duffield, William Jacobs, Holly Jones, Andrew Maxted, Abbie Mulcairn, Margaret Reed and Mark Stone

Also present: Councillor Yvonne Constance and Councillor Bob Johnston

Number of members of the public: 5

Ca.78 Apologies for absence

Councillor Robert Sharp had sent his apologies for absence.

Ca.79 Declarations of interest

None

Ca.80 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None

Ca.81 Public participation

Councillor Bob Johnston addressed Cabinet, at the request of the Liberal Democrat group, to support the proposals set out in the report regarding the Local Plan inspector's letter, and to encourage Cabinet to make these recommendations to Council on 19 November so that the plan could be progressed as soon as possible. This was in the district's best interests.

Ca.82 Local Plan 2031 Part 2 - Inspector's initial post hearing letter

Cabinet considered the head of planning's report regarding the Local Plan Part 2 inspector's initial post-hearing letter. The inspector had set out options for the council to

consider regarding the allocation of land at Dalton Barracks, near Abingdon, as a strategic housing site.

The council's proposal had been to release the whole site from the Green Belt but only to allocate part of the site for development in the current plan (up to 1,200 dwellings) but recognise the longer-term aim to allocate the whole site for housing (potentially up to 4,500 dwellings) in a future local plan.

The options presented by the inspector were for the council to:

1. Justify a proposal for a 4,500-dwelling new settlement
2. Allocate a specific site for 1,200 dwellings in the current local plan
3. Delete the Dalton Barracks site from the plan and identify alternative sites

Cabinet rejected the first option as it was unlikely that 4,500 homes could be built on the site during the plan period to 2031. Option 3 was rejected as it would require additional work to allocate an alternative site. Both options 1 and 3 would result in significant delays to the plan.

Cabinet preferred option 2 as it was more realistic that 1,200 homes could be built during the plan period than a higher number. This would also retain the playing fields and Starveall farm site. This option would not prejudice the council allocating the remainder of the site for housing in a future local plan. Option 2 would allow the council to meet its current Local Plan timetable. However, it was recognised that further modifications might be required at a later date, if required by the inspector.

Cabinet thanked the officers and the Cabinet member for planning for their work in progressing the local plan.

RECOMMENDED to Council:

that Council responds 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 10.50 am