

Report sponsor: Strategic Director for
Communities and Place
Report author: Planning Policy Team Leader

Establishing a Derby Local Plan Member Working Group

Purpose

- 1.1 In January 2022, the Executive Scrutiny Board accepted a recommendation from the Council Cabinet to establish a Member Working Group to advise and steer the preparation of the new Local Plan.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the membership of the Working Group will be drawn from the entire cohort of councillors, who in turn will report to the Executive Scrutiny Board periodically. The Board will make recommendations to Council Cabinet as appropriate throughout the plan preparation period, prior to the Local Plan's eventual referral to Council for adoption.
- 1.3 This report presents draft Terms of Reference for consideration by the Board and seeks delegated authority to seek nominations for the group's membership.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 1
- 2.2 Subject to the approval of recommendation 2.1, to delegate authority to the Council's Monitoring Officer to seek nominations to the Derby Local Plan Member Working Group, in accordance with the terms of reference set out at Appendix 1.

Reasons

- 3.1 To set the governance arrangements for the Derby Local Plan Member Working Group.
- 3.2 To ensure the views of councillors are reflected in the development of a new Local Plan.

Supporting information

- 4.1 At the January 2022 meeting of this Board, councillors resolved to agree to the recommendation from Council Cabinet that requested that the Executive Scrutiny Board establish a cross-party Local Plan Member Working Group, to advise and steer the preparation of the new Local Plan.

- 4.2 The purpose of this report is to set out and agree the Terms of Reference for the Derby Local Plan Working Group (DLPWG) to enable the group to be established to support work on the new Local Plan.
- 4.3 The proposed Terms of Reference, attached at Appendix 1, set out the purpose of the Group and its key roles.
- 4.4 The Working Group will act as a task and finish group overseeing and advising on the preparation of the Local Plan for Derby and any other planning policy documents that may be prepared, reporting periodically to the Executive Scrutiny Board. The DLPWG may make recommendations to the Board; the Board will in turn will report back on the action it proposes to take on any recommendations, including that recommendations are referred on to the Council Cabinet as appropriate.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the Derby Local Plan Member Working Group is to be made up of 7 members drawn proportionately from the political groups that make up the Council. It is further proposed that the Chair of the meeting is nominated at the start of each meeting and shared among the group's membership on a rolling basis.
- 4.6 Meeting frequency is also set out in the Terms of Reference, with the group anticipated to meet on a roughly quarterly basis. The Terms of Reference also allow for any additional meetings that may be required, to allow the group input into key decision making stages of the Local Plan, where these don't fit into the agreed schedule of meetings.
- 4.7 Should the Board agree to the proposed Terms of Reference, further delegated authority is sought to enable the Council's Monitoring Officer to seek nominations to the Group, in accordance with political proportionality principles. Groups may alter their individual representatives to the Working Group, under the standing delegation to the Monitoring Officer to give effect to the wishes of political groups.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 The Executive Scrutiny Board accepted the recommendation of Council Cabinet to establish a Local Plan Working Group at its meeting of 11 January 2022.

Other options

- 6.1 To not establish a Working Group. Not having a Working Group would fail to provide the opportunity for all political parties to be involved in the preparation of the Local Plan, which is one of the key statutory documents the Council produces. Member input would instead be limited to those occasions when a formal Full Council decision is required. This could result in a sense of a lack of involvement, understanding and ownership of the Local Plan among some Members.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 There are no direct additional cost implications arising from setting up the Working Group. The preparation of the Local Plan will be funded from the existing annual revenue budget and the Local Plan reserve.

Legal implications

- 8.1 The recommended approach is consistent with the Council's obligations as the Local Planning Authority to prepare and maintain a local plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Climate implications

- 9.1 The creation of a Working Group will allow Members more direct oversight of the Local Plan preparation process which will include both a Sustainability Appraisal that assesses the environmental impact of the strategy and policies of the Local Plan. The Local Plan will also include specific policies that will help address and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Other significant implications

- 10.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Stephen Teasdale	21/07/2022
Finance	Janice Hadfield	21/07/2022
Service Director(s)	Verna Bayliss	21/07/2022
Report sponsor	Rachel North	
Other(s)		

Background papers:	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 Terms of Reference for Local Plan Cross Party Member Working Group