

Council

Date of Meeting: 18 October 2023

Report by: Councillor Ben Crystall, Leader of the Council

Report title: Executive Report – 5 September and 3 October 2023

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

- This report details the recommendations to Council made by the Executive at its meetings on 5 September and 3 October 2023.

1.0 Item considered and recommended to Council

- 1.1 Since the last Council meeting, the Executive met on 5 September and 3 October 2023. At these meetings the Executive considered and supported a number of recommendations for Council on the following items:
 - 1.1.1 Birchall Garden Suburb Masterplan
 - 1.1.2 Review of the East Herts District Plan 2018
 - 1.1.3 Community Grants Policy and Priorities 2023/24
- 1.2 This report sets out the recommendation for the above items. The full report, including the Appendix, may be viewed on the council's website.
- 1.3 This report excludes items also considered by the Executive where those reports are separate agenda items on the Council

agenda.

2.0 Birchall Garden Suburb Masterplan

- 2.1 The Executive was asked to consider the Masterplan document for Birchall Garden Suburb; site allocation Policy EWEL1 Land East of Welwyn Garden City and support the recommendation that it is agreed as a material planning consideration.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

- (a) That the Birchall Garden Suburb Masterplan for the strategic allocation known as EWEL1 Land East of Welwyn Garden City, as detailed in Appendix A, be agreed as a material consideration for Development Management purposes**

3.0 Review of the East Herts District Plan 2018

- 3.1 The Executive was asked to assess the requirement of whether a review of the District Plan is required within five years from its adoption (i.e. by the end of October 2023).

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

- (a) That having assessed the East Herts District Plan 2018 in accordance with regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2017, it is agreed that, in order that the Council can continue to fulfil its statutory duties, the District Plan needs updating;**
- (b) That work commences during 2023/24 on updating the technical studies needed to provide a robust**

evidence base to inform an update of the District Plan;

- (c) That a 'Call for Sites' is undertaken during 2023/24;**
- (d) That the District Planning Executive Panel is reconvened with membership drawn from the Executive in accordance with paragraph 8.5.2 of the Constitution;**
- (e) That an engagement strategy is prepared which sets out the Council's approach to consulting and engaging the community and stakeholders;**
- (f) That a further report on the detailed scope of the update and the timetable for its preparation is prepared at the earliest opportunity once the implications of the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are better understood, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill has received Royal Assent, and the statutory framework required to implement the reforms has been approved.**

4.0 Community Grants Policy and Priorities for 2023/24

4.1 The Executive was asked to consider the updated Community Grants Policy and Priorities for 2023/24, within a slightly reworded policy.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

- (a) That the revised Community Grants Policy including the priorities for 2023/24 be approved.**

5.0 Executive Decisions

4.1 Other matters determined by the Executive are detailed in the Minutes of the meeting.

5.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

5.1 Executive minutes – 5 September and 3 October 2023

5.2 Birchall Garden Suburb Masterplan

5.3 Review of District Plan appendices

5.4 Community Grants Policy

Contact Member

Councillor Ben Crystall – Leader of the Council

ben.crystall@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer

James Ellis – Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, Tel: 01279 502170. james.ellis@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author

Katie Mogan – Democratic Services Manager

Tel: 01279 502441. Katie.mogan@eastherts.gov.uk