543. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marika Hillson, Steven North and Sarah Peacock.

544. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

It was reported that Councillor Pam Whiting had presented apologies for absence but these had been received after the meeting.

**Minute 501 – Draft Local Plan Part 2 Consultation**

The Head of Planning Services reported that an initial meeting had been held with the developers LXB in relation to land to the west of Rushden Lakes. Legal advice was being sought and a further meeting would be held with LXB before reporting back to the Committee. The local Ward Member would be informed of progress.

A meeting had also been held with Wykes Engineering in relation to Chelveston Renewable Energy Park and redevelopment proposals for the Federal Estates site at Higham Ferrers. The Leader of the Council had been informed and had suggested a briefing note be prepared and a meeting of Committee members arranged to report further.

545. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

546. **QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.
547. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE**

The Committee received a report from the Principal Planning Policy Officer outlining the current situation on Neighbourhood Plans for King’s Cliffe, Warmington, Wakerley (a joint Plan with Barrowden, in Rutland) and Oundle, as follows:-

**King’s Cliffe**

Following submission, by King’s Cliffe Parish Council, of the draft King’s Cliffe Neighbourhood Plan and other documents to this Council for Examination, and confirmation that the documents fulfilled the relevant statutory requirements, a period of consultation would end on 3 June 2019. This Council had now appointed an independent Examiner, to assess the draft Neighbourhood Plan against the five “basic conditions” required to be met.

**Oundle**

Following consultation on the 1st Draft Oundle Neighbourhood Plan last year, this Council had advised that there were significant concerns about the overall spatial direction of the Plan and some of the detailed policy content. A Neighbourhood Plan had to be evidenced, not breach, and be otherwise compatible with, EU Regulations. A Neighbourhood Planning group needed to prepare a screening opinion, to demonstrate why a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was not required. No screening assessment had been published to support the Plan and it therefore failed to meet this requirement. Officers had previously advised that the consultation should be re-run in light of the SEA requirements. Outstanding work was progressing and the submission of a revised Neighbourhood Plan was anticipated in the coming weeks.

**Warmington**

Consultation on the 1st draft Neighbourhood Plan had ended on 8 March 2019. This Council had advised that, generally, it provided a good range of local policies to manage development at the local level, giving a clear and consistent local voice. Detailed comments for the next stage of the process included the need to make policies more positively worded, and for a reassessment of the current Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan settlement boundary, to retain a linear boundary. Submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to East Northamptonshire by the Parish Council was anticipated on 16 May 2019.

**Barrowden and Wakerley**

The submission draft was now progressing to examination, following the end of consultation by Rutland County Council on 25 February 2019.

Councillor Vowles reported that a meeting of the Oundle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be held on 7 May and the outcome would be reported to a Town Council meeting on 23 May.

Councillor Hobbs reported that the first public consultation on the Irthlingborough Neighbourhood Plan had been carried out.

**RESOLVED:**

That the current progress and stages in preparation of the various Neighbourhood Plans be noted.
(Reason – to inform the Committee of the current state of progress for those Neighbourhood Plans in preparation across the District).

548. PUBLIC SPEAKER

At the invitation of the Chairman, a member of the public addressed the meeting in respect of the Draft Local Plan Part 2 Consultation Responses, especially in connection with Policies EN2 and EN1 (Settlement Boundaries and Spatial Development Strategy).

549. DRAFT LOCAL PLAN PART 2 CONSULTATION – RESPONSES TO REPRESENTATIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Planning Policy Manager submitted a report considering the policy implications arising from the representations submitted on the draft Local Plan in respect of Chapters 3-4, which included the Vision and Outcomes and Spatial Development Strategy and Chapter 10 - Monitoring and Implementation.

As previously, the report recommended in respect of each representation received –

- No further changes required to the Plan
- Proposed changes to text and/or policies
- Additional evidence required to determine whether amendments were needed to address the representation.

The Committee considered each of the chapters in turn, and the following comments and conclusions were made:-

Policies EN2 and EN1 – Settlement Boundaries and Spatial Development Strategy

- The Planning Policy Manager reported that the comments made by the public speaker would be considered to determine whether any changes should be made.

Additional Evidence – Settlement Hierarchy

- It was reported that a background document would be submitted to Members as part of the response to the Housing Delivery chapter representation responses, due to be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

Policy EN3

- The precise rewording to provide clearer guidance and policy direction had yet to be determined.

Section 4.5 (Table 3)

- A meeting was being arranged with Natural England to consider their representations in more detail.

Tresham Garden Village – Para. 3.6

- There was a discussion on whether greater prominence should be given but the Committee concluded that no further changes should be made.
Oundle Medical Centre

- Members recognised the problems caused by the Centre in not taking new patients from the surrounding areas and the difficulties in engaging with NHS bodies but agreed with officers that the issue should not be addressed in the Local Plan. Determined efforts should however be made to explore ways of securing NHS support.

Subject to the above, Members accepted the recommendations by the officers for

(a) changes to text/and or policies or
(b) additional evidence required in a large number of instances to determine potential change or address representations.

These were:-

**Chapter 3 – Vision & Outcomes**
Area Portrait – para. 2.45
Spatial Elements of the District – Fig. 7
Corporate Plan – Para. 3.3
Health & Wellbeing – paras. 5.20-5.22

**Chapter 4 – Spatial Development Strategy**
Rural Areas
Iship
Oundle
Soundness Tests
Rushden East
EN1 (a) (b) and (c)
EN1 (2) (a) and (b)
Urban re-imagination
Freestanding villages and Open Countryside & restraint villages
EN2 (d) and (e) (f) (g)
EN3 and table 5
EN5 (e)
EN5
EN5 & EN23
Para. 6.8
Table 19
“Locally identified needs”
Paras. 4.10 and 4.11 and para. 4.5

**Chapter 10 – Monitoring & Implementation**
Framework
Evidence Base
Table 27
Electronic Vehicle Charging Points
Alignment with Borough of Wellingborough Local Plan
Review of Targets
Glossary

RESOLVED:

That the actions recommended in respect of the following sections of the Plan –
• Vision and Outcomes
• Spatial Development Strategy and
• Monitoring and Implementation,

be approved, thereby facilitating, where necessary, further work to be undertaken to ensure that the draft Local Plan is properly prepared to allow a pre-submission draft to be considered for public consultation.

(Reason – to provide a clear steer to Councillors on the issues that need to be addressed to ensure the preparation of a pre-submission plan meets legislative requirements and provides clear policy guidance).

Chairman