

## **Planning Committee – Meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022.**

**Present:-** Councillors Ajaib (Chair), Dar, Gahir and S Parmar

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors A Cheema, J Davis, R Davis, Mann and Muvvala

### **PART I**

#### **95. Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **96. Guidance on Predetermination/Predisposition - To Note**

Members confirmed that they had read and understood the guidance on predetermination and predisposition.

#### **97. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 26th January 2022**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

#### **98. Human Rights Act Statement - To Note**

The Human Rights Act statement was noted.

#### **99. Planning Applications**

The Amendment Sheet, which included details of alterations and amendments received since the agenda was circulated had been sent to Committee Members and published on the Council website. Members confirmed they had received and read it prior to the consideration of planning applications.

Oral representations were made to the Committee under the Public Participation Scheme prior to the application being considered by the Committee as follows:-

P/02411/022 – Thames Central, Hatfield Road, Slough, SL1 1QE – the agent addressed the Committee.

**Resolved** – That the decisions taken in respect of the planning applications as set out in the minutes below, subject to the information, including conditions and informatives set out in the report of the Planning Manager and the Amendment Sheet circulated to Members prior to the meeting and subject to any further amendments and conditions agreed by the Committee.

## Planning Committee - 23.03.22

### 100. P/02411/022 - Thames Central, Hatfield Road, Slough, SL1 1QE

Application	Decision
Construction of a side and roof extension to existing building to provide 52 apartments, involving the formation of a fourteen storey building.	Delegated to the Planning Manager for approval, subject to the satisfactory completion of a s106 agreement, finalising conditions and pre-commencement conditions, and any other minor changes.

### 101. Slough Local Plan - Initial Report on Consultation of the Release of Green Belt Sites for Family Housing

The Planning Policy Manager introduced a report that informed Members about the results of the consultation exercise on the potential release of Green Belt sites for family housing.

It was recognised that there was a particular need for more family housing in Slough and most sites in the town were not suitable for family housing which meant new housing was predominantly flats and small units. Greenfield sites provided an opportunity for family and affordable housing. The consultation had set out ten possible sites for release. Consultation had taken place between 5<sup>th</sup> November to 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 with a leaflet sent to every household in Slough. A total of 417 responses had been received and 60% of respondents thought there was no need for more family housing in Slough. Only 11% of respondents thought that the need for more housing justified building on some Green Belt sites in Slough, which reflected the high level of public support for protecting the Green Belt.

In relation to alternative solutions, 40% thought more family housing should be built in Slough's urban areas at a higher density and 45% thought family housing should be built outside the Borough but close to Slough. Whilst the respondents were generally not supportive of Green Belt site release in Slough, or of the provision of more family housing in general, it was noted that the response rate was relatively low and range of consultation mechanisms had been limited due to Covid restrictions.

The Committee discussed the survey results, next steps and how the consultation responses would be used. It was noted that public opinion was one factor to take into account, but the Council would have to take balanced decision overall when it produced its Local Plan. It was emphasised that no decisions had been taken, including on the possible sites included in the consultation. There would be further more formal stages of consultation on the draft Local Plan at a later stage.

## **Planning Committee - 23.03.22**

In response to a question about the potential to bring forward more family housing sites in Colnbrook with Poyle the Officer explained why it had been discounted at this stage, primarily due to the proximity to Heathrow airport and potential future expansion; the area being relatively unsuitable for more family housing due to environmental reasons; and the importance of maintaining the strategic gap to London.

Members commented that there was a clear need for more family homes in Slough and the Council needed to try to find a way to provide a balanced housing mix that gave people the opportunity to stay in Slough. At the conclusion of the discussion the report was noted.

**Resolved** – That the response to the consultation on the proposed release of Green Belt sites for family housing be noted.

### **102. Planning Appeal Decisions**

Members received and noted details of planning appeals determined since the previous report to the Committee.

**Resolved** – That details of planning appeals be noted.

### **103. Members' Attendance Record**

**Resolved** – That the record of Members' attendance for 21/22 be noted.

### **104. Date of Next Meeting - 13th April 2022**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

### **105. Vote of Thanks**

The Chair stated that this would be last meeting of the committee that the Planning Policy Manager, Paul Stimpson, would be attending as he would shortly be leaving the Council.

Mr Stimpson had worked for the Council for 37 years and had made a huge contribution to the Committee and to planning policy in the Borough. Members gave a vote of thanks to Mr Stimpson for his service to Slough and to the Council.

**Resolved** – That Planning Policy Manager, Paul Stimpson, be given a vote of thanks for his service to Slough and to the Council over the past 37 years.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.05 pm)