

These Minutes should be referred to in conjunction with the Minutes of the subsequent meeting of the Council, where they are presented; and for completeness to the next relevant meeting when the Minutes are adopted.

Elmbridge Borough Council

Individual Cabinet Member Decision Making - Planning Services

Report of decisions taken on 23 July 2018

Present:

J.W. Browne (Portfolio Holder for Planning Services)

1/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Matters of Report

2/18 Local Plan Position Statement following Drake Park Appeal Decision

(Link to Council Priorities: P2)

The Portfolio Holder for Planning Services considered a report that reflected on key matters that had been raised by the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspector in their respective reports on the 'Drake Park' decision which would relate to the preparation of the Council's new Local Plan.

The Portfolio Holder was reminded that the 'Drake Park' application, which had sought planning permission for over 1,000 homes and supporting services, had been refused planning permission by the Council in November 2016 for four reasons. Members had considered that the proposal would be inappropriate development in the Green Belt, would be harmful to the character and openness of the Green Belt, and that the applicant had not demonstrated Very Special Circumstances.

Whilst the decision had been appealed, following a Public Inquiry held in October / November 2017, the appeal had been dismissed by the Planning Inspector and subsequently upheld by the Secretary of State in May 2018.

The Portfolio Holder noted that the key matters raised by the Secretary of State and Planning Inspector had been evaluated and a draft position statement had been prepared. In this regard, he acknowledged that the Local Plan Working Group had considered the draft position statement at its meeting on 23 June 2018 and had recommended that, if approved, the Local Plan Position Statement be published on the Council's website.

The Portfolio Holder supported the publication of the Local Plan Position Statement, which he considered was a sensible approach to assuring and informing the public and interested parties that the Council was committed to responding positively to the challenge of housing and affordability in Elmbridge and that it was working hard to progress a new Local Plan.

