

## **Guildford Scrutiny Committee consider Draft Local Plan**

Councillors considered the borough's Draft Local Plan for the first time at a meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 15 May.

The Draft Local Plan incorporates public feedback from last year's Issues and Options consultation and is a framework for how the borough will develop up to 2031. It covers key issues including affordable housing, the economy, infrastructure and the Green Belt.

The councillors listened to ten public speakers and discussed their comments and the draft Local Plan: Strategy and Sites for Consultation documents. The Joint Scrutiny Committee asked Carol Humphrey, the Head of Planning Services, to consider the following matters before the Executive considers the documents on 4 June and the Council considers them on 19 June.

1. To include reference to green environment and heritage in the vision and ambition section of the Draft Local Plan.
2. To investigate how we might improve our consultation with 'Hard to Reach' groups and to invite councillors to be involved in the process.
3. To amend policy four to make appropriate reference to individual site allocation policies.
4. To bring forward the various topic papers.
5. To add 'where applicable' to page 20 specifically referring to the table where it states to 'Support communities in developing their neighbourhood plans, where applicable'.
6. To note that the Head of Planning Services and the Lead Councillor for Planning are happy to meet with any councillors who have any areas of concern on the Draft Local Plan, ensuring that councillors are consulted on sites that are co-joined and cross over ward boundaries.
7. To share with councillors the brief to GL Hearn on the production of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA).
8. To express concern over the housing number as set out in the Draft Local Plan and to ask the Head of Planning and the Lead Councillor for Planning to review the housing number before going to Executive for consideration on 4 June and Council on 19 June 2014.
9. To include Worplesdon Station on the map on page 15 of the Draft Local Plan.

Cllr Terence Patrick, Chairman of the Joint Scrutiny Committee, says: "The Joint Scrutiny Committee is the first in a series of meetings prior to the publication and widespread consultation about the Draft Local Plan. Councillors are very aware of the public interest in the new Local Plan and we listened carefully to the useful and thorough comments made by the public speakers. This plan will be a framework for how our borough will develop during the next 17 years, so we need to get it right. Councillors considered the draft documents and identified a number of matters that need further consideration before they go to the Executive and Council in June. This is an important part of the Scrutiny Committee's role in helping officers finalise the Draft Local Plan."

A recording of the meeting can be viewed on the Council's [webcasting page](#).