

REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 17th December 2015

Questions by Members

Question by:	To be answered by:	Subject:
Cllr. J. Essex	Executive Member for Property and Regeneration, (Councillor N. J. Bramhall)	Horley Business Park – 2016/17 Budget
Cllr. J. Essex	Executive Member for Planning and Development (Councillor T. Schofield)	National Planning Policy – Duty to Cooperate

Council Meeting: 17 December 2015

Councillor J. Essex will ask the **Executive Member for Property and Regeneration, Councillor N. Bramhall** the following question:

The observations below were provided as a written answer following the meeting.

Horley Business Park – 2016/17 Budget

The draft (Capital) budget for 2016/2017 contains a line item of £545,000 for Development of Land for the 'Airport City Gatwick' project which was brought to the Executive in October.

As this proposal is contrary to adopted policies in the Horley Master Plan and the Core Strategy, will the Executive Member please confirm that none of the money will be spent until a full public consultation on the development of this land has been undertaken?

Observations

Full Council agreed on 17 December 2015 to finalise the joint venture arrangements and bring forward planning on this strategic employment site. This authority included funding the Planning Application. It is hoped that through signing the proposed Joint Venture agreements that the draft capital budget may be reduced.

As mentioned at full Council last night we are planning consultation with local residents next year. As your question recognises, there is a conflict between the Borough Local Plan policy about the Rural Surrounds of Horley and the proposal currently being developed. The application will therefore need to justify why – taking this policy into account – the development is acceptable.

In accordance with legislation, any future planning application will be determined in accordance with policies in the Council's adopted Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

It will fall to the Planning Committee to determine whether material considerations outweigh the policies in the adopted Development Plan, and how the balance between environmental, social and economic considerations should be struck in relation to this proposal.

The decision taken by full Council authorises the work to be done to submit an outline planning application, and for the Council and its potential joint venture partners to attempt to make the case to the Planning Committee that development of this site will bring material benefits to the Borough and the residents of Horley that outweigh the policies in the adopted plan. This budget therefore needs to be set aside for the work associated with the outline planning application.

Council Meeting: 17 December 2015

Councillor J. Essex will ask the **Executive Member for Planning and Development, Councillor T. Schofield** the following question:

The observations below were provided as a written answer following the meeting.

National Planning Policy – Duty to Cooperate

I understand that there is a clear instruction in the National Planning Framework, which is set out in the 'Duty to Cooperate National Planning Policy Guidance'. This states that local authorities should, work collaboratively with and, where necessary, 'align' their policies with those of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Please can the council confirm if this policy position is correct and confirm what policies of Reigate and Banstead's LEP, Coast to Capital, does the Council currently align itself with?

Observations

The "Duty to Cooperate", as introduced by the 2011 Localism Act, relates to the plan-making process.

Regulations require that Local Planning Authorities must have regard to the activities of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) when they are preparing their local plans.

National planning guidance identifies that Local Enterprise Partnerships have a key role to play in delivering local growth by directing strategic regeneration funds through their Strategic Economic Plans.

The Council's adopted Core Strategy predates the Coast to Capital LEP's Strategic Economic Plan, but was developed taking into account the priorities of the Coast to Capital LEP as expressed at that time. It recognises that, in delivering policy CS5 in relation to economic development, cross boundary working, including with the LEP, will be important.

Opportunities to align the Council's local planning documents with priorities in Coast to Capital's Strategic Economic Plan will now be explored as our Development Management Plan is prepared.