

COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS)

LANDSCAPE AND TOWNSCAPE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

- 4.1 The panel discussed the Landscape and Townscape Supplementary Planning Document at its meeting on 6th October 2021.
- 4.2 Councillor Grice praised the Officers for a commendable piece of work which would form a great reference for the future.
- 4.3 Councillor Dew reflected that the 2007 document greatly needed updating as the world has changed significantly since it's adoption. He praised the document as essential in keeping the suite of the Council's planning documents up to date. It was also noted that it is important to engage with town and parish councils on this subject to allow them a platform to build on for the future.
- 4.4 Councillors also praised the focus on townscapes within the document as they felt this was more in keeping with the local area and crucial for proposed and future developments.
- 4.5 Following a question from Councillor Butler over town centre parking in Ramsey, the Planning Policy Team Leader reassured that the suggestion is to introduce landscaping to the town centre in order to reduce the visible impact of town centre parking not to restrict the parking itself.
- 4.6 Councillor Sanderson questioned what the most effective way to provide natural screenings for existing developments would be. He was advised that whilst the report primarily focuses on new developments, town and parish councils are encouraged to work with the district council to provide planting screens on council owned land to reduce the impact of existing developments.
- 4.7 The report was wholeheartedly endorsed by Councillor Corney, who also questioned how the document would be communicated with local councils and public for the consultation. The panel heard that the document would be available electronically and that it would be interactive to allow residents and councils to focus on specific geographic areas.
- 4.8 The panel also heard that the public consultation is to be increased to eight weeks from the statutory four weeks as the council recognises the size of the document and aims to allow sufficient time for residents and local councils to digest and comment upon the proposals.
- 4.9 The Panel welcomed the report and encourage the Cabinet to endorse the recommendations contained within the report.