

RAF BRAMPTON

Governance Arrangements for the Urban Design Framework Process

(Report by HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet's endorsement for the establishment of an RAF Working Group, consisting of nominated elected members from all of the applicable local councils with particular interests in securing high quality and sustainable development of the RAF Brampton site.
- 1.2 A Working Group with a similar range of membership was established to assist in the preparation of the St Neots Eastern Expansion Urban Design Framework. This proved to be successful and it is considered that similar arrangements will assist greatly in the preparation of the Council's ongoing programme of Urban Design Frameworks for larger development areas.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The RAF Brampton site has been identified in the adopted Huntingdonshire Core Strategy as an appropriate location for strategic growth within the district, once it becomes surplus to Ministry of Defence requirements. It is envisaged that the area has capacity for the development of some 300 new dwellings, and that existing buildings (including a range of listed buildings) and open spaces may be able to be re-used for the benefit of the local community, or for appropriate commercial uses.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Working Group is to advise officers during the process of preparing the emerging RAF Brampton Urban Design Framework, prior to the District Council issuing a Draft Urban Design Framework for public consultation.
- 2.3 The Ministry of Defence is the principal landowner of the site. As such, it recently undertook to independently publicise plans for a larger amount of new dwellings on the site. This was done without the support of the District Council, which has now brought forward its commitment to preparing an Urban Design Framework for the site.
- 2.4 The Working Group's membership is to include nominated representatives from the District Council, the County Council, Brampton Parish Council, and Huntingdon Parish Council.

- 2.5 The development area lies within the Brampton Ward, and close to the Huntingdon West Ward. The intention is to have 3 District Council members (including the HDC Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport), 3 Parish Council members, 1 Huntingdon Town Council member and 1 County Council member (8 in total). A chairman will be nominated by the group.
- 2.6 Meetings of this group will take place as required at key points in the programme of preparing the Urban Design Framework, through to Spring 2011.
- 2.7 A Draft Urban Design Framework will then issued for public consultation purposes, and presented to Development Management Panel and Overview and Scrutiny for their comment. A final draft, taking consultation comments into account, will then be considered by Cabinet for adoption as Council planning policy.
- 2.8 The arrangement is good practice, and will ensure that a robust Member and public consultation mechanism is integrated into the preparation of the Urban Design Framework to ensure that the quality of the development and related community facilities that are ultimately delivered meet the aspirations of local communities.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to nominate the District Council membership, and request the County, Town and Parish Council's to nominate their membership for the Working Group.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Huntingdonshire Core Strategy 2009

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