

NOTES OF CASTLE POINT PLAN BOARD

6th March 2024

Present:

Councillors: Gibson (Chair), Blackwell, Fuller, Hart, Isaacs, S. Mumford, and Palmer.

Officers in attendance: Ian Butt (Director of Place and Communities), Amanda Parrott (Assistant Director of Climate and Growth), Gavin Ball (Principal Planning Officer), Maria Hennessy (Senior Planning Policy Officer), Matt Amner (Planning Policy Officer), Neil Gale (Planning Policy Officer – Engagement), Dominic Chessum (Communications).

Apologies: Councillors Savage and Mountford, Angela Hutchings (Chief Executive).

1. **Notes of the last meeting on 7th February 2024** – Noted

2. **Outcomes of Audit/Project Reviews:**

DAC Planning conducted a project review of the Castle Point Plan programme. They were happy that the plan is headed in the right direction and were impressed with the cross-party collaboration through the Castle Point Plan Board. The main concern is that the Planning Policy team is relatively small in comparison to other boroughs, which may impact the ability to handle responses from both Regulation 18 through to Regulation 19's consultations in keeping with the timetable. Officers highlighted that the Castle Point Plan is a priority and if necessary further resources will be required to keep to the timetable.

3. **Anglian Water – Water Efficiency:**

Anglian Water are preparing a Joint Protocol in regard to water efficiency with stakeholders, including the Environment Agency and Natural England. This Protocol seeks to improve water efficiency standards in the area and assist local planning authorities with planning for sustainable growth. This is a key document that will support the preparation of a policy in regard to water efficiency for the Castle Point Plan.

4. **Call for Sites outcome:**

The public Call for Sites has now concluded. Under the initial assessment of sites, officers have assessed and presented sites that are within the urban area capable of delivering 5 dwellings or more. Officers undertook an initial Suitability Assessment as well as utilising Placemaker's automatic suitability test. The types of sites that were submitted included: Car Parks, Shopping Parades, Underutilised Grass, Industrial and Community Buildings.

5. **Comms:**

Dominic Chessum (Communications) suggested to members that while the Housing Needs figure is important, there is a need to contextualise the plan in terms of place making to inform the plan but not restrict it.

6. **AOB:**

Members agreed to have a workshop on the 14th of March to go over Officer Site Search findings.