

## **Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning**

**17 July 2017**

### **Local Plan**

A joint meeting of the Local Plan Members Working Group and Economic Development Members Working Group took place in late June to commence a review of the completed working draft of the Local Plan. This included a full range of strategy and development policies and the site allocations.

There are also ongoing 'Duty to Cooperate' meetings taking place at Member level with neighbouring authorities, the results of these discussions are an essential part of preparing a robust evidence base for the plan.

Progress continues with the feasibility and viability studies for the proposed allocations of employment land.

Whilst work on the Local Plan preparation is progressing well there is an expectation that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) may shortly be published and could have some impact upon the emerging Local Plan. This will require a review of the plan once the new NPPF is published and the implications are understood.

### **Development Management**

The Planning service now has a full complement of staff in place and has completed its restructure, allowing it to focus on how to deliver sustainable improvements through a full improvement programme. Changes have been implemented to the core planning systems which allow more rigorous case management and further system upgrades will be taking place.

Councillor David Webster  
Portfolio Holder for Planning