

Report to: Strategic Planning Committee



Date of Meeting 5 March 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Creation of Local Plan Member Working Group

Report summary:

This report seeks Member approval to the setting up of an informal member Local Plan working group to oversee development of the East Devon Local Plan

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That the Committee agree to set up an informal working group of members to oversee development of the East Devon Local Plan. The working group to be made up of the Leader of Council, Chair and Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee plus four other members of the Committee.

Reason for recommendation:

Due to the significance of the development of the Local Plan, it is important that officers are able to engage with members informally between Committee meetings. It is also important that Members can oversee progress and ensure that the Local Plan is developing in accordance with the direction set by the Committee.

Officer: Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance and Licensing

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

If choosing High or Medium level outline the equality considerations here, which should include any particular adverse impact on people with protected characteristics and actions to mitigate these. Link to an equalities impact assessment form using the [equalities form template](#).

Climate change Medium Impact

Risk: Low Risk; Having a small Working Group of members ensures that officers have a member sounding board between meetings and enables members to oversee progress of the Local Plan which is a critical document for the Council.

Links to background information None

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

1. Report in full

1.1 This report seeks members approval to the setting up of an informal Local Plan member working group that can oversee officer development of the East Devon Local Plan. The working group will supplement the already scheduled Committee meetings and workshops taking place with all members of the Committee.

1.2 It is proposed that the working group consist of the Leader of Council, Chair and Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee plus four other members of the Committee. It is important to emphasise that the role of this informal working group will be to simply oversee progress and not to make any decisions or direct the process. It will simply allow a small group of members to oversee progress on behalf of the Committee between formal Committee meetings. The working group needs to be small enough to be agile and needs to consist of members who will be able to meet regularly during the working day. It is anticipated that the working group will meet on a regular basis every 2 – 3 weeks.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications identified.

Legal implications:

There are no substantive legal issues to be added to this report.