

Appendix 1

Record of minutes of Scrutiny Meetings - Reg 18 Consultation Sept to Dec 2020

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| 3 Dec 2020 | Overview Select |
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1. Overview Select - 3 Dec 2020

Responses in blue

Summary of main points

1. Councillor Kitterick - concerns about General Hospital & fact that only included details of provision to 2024, in terms of the need to protect all or some of the site for hospital use.

The Leicester General Hospital site is no longer formally allocated for housing in the Local Plan as the UHL Trust is not in a position to confirm the site availability at this time. This does not mean the site won't be coming forward for development at some point in the future, once UHL's plans are firmed up and the council will work closely with the Trust on their plans in the future.

2. Councillor Porter against any development of greenfield sites. The importance of good quality and easily accessible green space for physical and mental wellbeing was emphasised.

The importance of green spaces and access to green spaces for physical and mental wellbeing is recognised in several chapters of the plan including Health & Wellbeing (Chapter 7), Open Space, Sport & Recreation (Chapter 14) and the Natural Environment (Chapter 15).

Unfortunately, given the constraints of the city and the level of need for new housing it is not possible to avoid development on greenfield sites altogether. Thorough assessments have been undertaken to select appropriate sites for development. The provision of new, good quality homes will secure health benefits, including mental health for future residents.

3. Councillor Waddington noted that Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission, raised the need for an examination of brownfield sites to properly assess their suitability for redevelopment, particularly for affordable housing.

All sites have been assessed against availability as well as a wide range of criteria to determine their suitability for development before being put forward for allocation in the Local Plan. The CDA capacity has considered the potential from brownfield sites. Local Plan policy Ho05 encourages higher density development in the CDA (minimum of 75 dwellings per hectare).

The provision of affordable housing on development sites will be informed by policy Ho04 when the council receives a planning application. The affordable housing policy has also been informed by the Viability Assessment that supports the Local Plan.

4. Councillor Cassidy referred to recent debates concerning the need to encourage and support a return to traditional family housing in the city and to reduce the numbers of conversions to houses in multiple occupation.

Policy Ho10 prevents concentrations of HMOs from developing and existing HMO concentrations from intensifying. Policy Ho09 prevents family houses within HMO Article 4 Direction areas from being converted to flats