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## Notes of the Local Plan Seminar held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

**Present**                    The Mayor, Councillor D Kerr  
Councillors S Best, M Coppock, N Hughes, M Isherwood,  
M Jones, L Maguire, S Mason, R Radford and O Rose

**Also present**            Arren Roberts - Town Clerk  
Ed West (Principal Planning Officer) Shropshire Council  
Matt Jones (Senior Planning Officer) (Shropshire Council)

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Mayor welcomed officers from Shropshire Council to the Seminar, thanking them for agreeing to attend.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Councillors B Edwards, V Hunt, D P Milner, J Moore, J Price and C Schofield.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made

### **4. Overview and Update on process**

Ed West provided an overview of the consultation on the Regulation 18 : Pre-Submission Draft of the Shropshire Local Plan. He highlighted that 2,500 organisations and individuals had engaged and contributed during the phase. The responses were being collated and reviewed in what was described as an extensive process. Mr West noted that the purpose of the plan was to ensure sufficient land supply in order to support growth, adding that Oswestry was identified as a significant settlement. The plan details more ambitious targets for growth than previous documents.

It was noted that a number of restrictions (its geographical boundaries) constrain development with few suitable sites available. OSW17, which

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Oswestry Town Council has asked to be removed, was only new site included in the plan.

In terms of the next steps for the development of the plan Mr West noted that some changes would be made following the consultation and that a revised version would be published for consultation.

### 5. Questions and discussions

The Mayor thanked officers for their contribution and invited questions from elected Members.

The carbon reduction targets set out in the plan were queried given that they seemed not to align with the Government's target of carbon neutral by 2050. It was felt that the documents did not adequately consider sustainable transport or renewable energy. Given that targets were unambitious this raised concerns regarding the robustness of policies. In response it was stated that the long-term plan would be reviewed on a regular basis. The policy development cycle was explained, and it was noted that a number of new policies which aim to mitigate the impact of climate change had been introduced.

In response to a question regarding response rate to the consultation and the focus of feedback, Mr West noted that the majority of comments made were in reference to specific sites rather than on policies. He added that he was hopeful that feedback had been given on the policies relating to the mix of housing on residential developments.

Elected Members asked whether the Government plans to change the planning system would impact on the local plan. Shropshire Council, it was reported, had responded to the Government's process but were focussing on the local plan which is a key piece of work.

A number of questions were asked by Councillors with respect to OSW17, expressing severe concerns regarding the potential inclusion of the site and future development. Issues such as highways and infrastructure were of particular concern, in addition alternative and more suitable sites were slow in being built out. In response officers noted that Shropshire Council Highways had reviewed the suitability of

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the site for a reduced amount of housing but would ask for a review by Highways given the Town Council's representation.

The meeting closed at 18:45