



Committee and Date

Cabinet
24th July 2013

Council
26th September 2013

Item

15

Public

ADOPTION OF THE ALBRIGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 'LIGHT'

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks endorsement by Cabinet for adoption of the Albrighton Neighbourhood Plan 'Light' by Shropshire Council for development management purposes. The responsibility for planning policy adoption falls to Full Council. A copy of the Plan has been placed in the members library and can be viewed at: <http://www.albrightonparishcouncil.gov.uk/AlbrightonNPLight-FINAL.htm>
- 1.2 The Plan has been prepared by Albrighton Parish Council with financial support from Shropshire Council through its neighbourhood planning front-runner programme. The Plan has utilised the community-led planning route advocated by Shropshire Council as a more sustainable model to the full-blown statutory process for neighbourhood development plans set out in the Localism Act. As such the Albrighton Neighbourhood Plan 'Light' does not need to undergo a costly examination or referendum, but is given weight by the local planning authority through resolution of Shropshire Council to apply the Plan in development management decisions and through alignment of the SAMDev Development Plan to reflect its contents.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended to Council that the policies in the Albrighton Neighbourhood Plan 'Light' be endorsed and adopted for development management purposes.

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3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 The Localism Act and Regulations covering the production of formal neighbourhood plans are quite prescriptive. The production of less formal community-led plans or the neighbourhood plan 'light' approach is also well documented and has a strong legacy here in Shropshire. Many of Shropshire's existing community led plans such as Parish Plans have either now been taken on board as part of our on-going Place Plan process, where

aspirations are “jointly owned” by Shropshire Council, or in the case of Town and Village Design Guides there is a well-established practice of adoption by the local planning authority (including the former Bridgnorth District Council) for development management purposes.

- 3.2 Shropshire Council officers and the Local Member have been involved at all stages of the preparation of the Albrighton Neighbourhood Plan ‘Light’ which has been critical to reducing risk and ensuring an appropriate balance has been struck between local initiative and the statutory planning framework provided by the adopted Shropshire Core Strategy and the emerging SAMDev Development Plan. The work of Albrighton Parish Council and its active community members in producing this plan is to be applauded.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Shropshire Council made £8,000 available to Albrighton Parish Council to support the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, utilising funding from the neighbourhood planning front-runner programme. The Parish Council obtained independent planning support for the project, which together with a significant investment of time and effort from local council members and volunteers has resulted in a highly professional plan. The Neighbourhood Plan ‘Light’ reflects a thorough process of establishing and reflecting local residents’ views.

5. Background and Additional Information

- 5.1. Shropshire Council’s planning approach supports Neighbourhood Plans being brought forward under the Localism Act but it is also committed to promoting and supporting community led planning as a more cost effective and sustainable alternative for example through both the innovative neighbourhood plan ‘light’ approach or the more traditional Parish and Town Plans. For such community led plans to be given formal weight as a material planning consideration when determining planning applications it is necessary for the local planning authority to formally adopt the Plan with this stated intention.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Report to Cabinet 16th January 2013: Draft Development Management Policies

Report to Cabinet 26th June 2013: Site Allocations & Management of Development Plan

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Mal Price, Portfolio Holder Planning, Housing and Commissioning (Central)

Local Member Malcolm Pate