

## **Environment & Sustainability Committee – 21 November 2023**

### **Local Plan update**

#### **Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

- Not yet published
- Advised it is still planned to be published in ‘autumn’
- Once published, Members will be briefed on the changes, what they mean for the Spelthorne Local Plan and be asked to consider next steps, including input from CRA (critical friend)

#### **Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)**

- Weekly operational meetings and monthly monitoring meetings being held with DLUHC officials and SBC officers
- A timeline towards resuming examination hearings is in progress and will be shared and agreed by Members before being provided to DLUHC
- Timeline can only set out tasks and timescales for their completion until the revised NPPF is published, after which we will be able to set out dates

#### **Environment Agency (EA)**

- Ongoing engagement to seek to resolve outstanding issues
- Issues now provided within a spreadsheet to differentiate between ‘critical’ and ‘advisory’ comments
- Spreadsheet published 17 November (information from EA in ‘raw’ form released prior to that was published on 10 November)
- Officers and SBC’s flood risk consultants, AECOM, are now seeking a further meeting with the EA to focus on the critical comments
- AECOM are in the process of producing an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as the EA has recently published the updated flooding model for the River Thames, which is likely to be ready in early January 2024

#### **Design Codes**

- Work has begun on the procurement of consultants to assist SBC in producing design codes at an accelerated pace
- Specification currently being drafted
- Andy Von Bradsky has been contracted to assist officers in this process
- An Interactive Briefing and Workshop for Members is scheduled for 28 November at 18:00. We encourage as many councillors as possible to attend. We would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance so that we can be prepared. Please do send us your pictures as per the invitation ahead of the meeting for use in the workshop.
- Awaiting outcome of bid for government funding (Planning Skills and Delivery Funding) to contribute to costs