

CHAPTER 3: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

3.1. This chapter sets out the General Principles of plan for the growth of the Borough through to 2031.

3.2. At the centre of this Local Plan is the principle of sustainable development. Sustainable development is at the heart of good planning and in making the right decisions for this and future generations. The three elements of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental – need to be considered jointly and not in isolation. The general principles contained within this chapter of the Local Plan will ensure that the correct approach is taken and sustainable development delivered.

3.3. The Local Plan has been written to provide the starting point for guiding growth and creating and delivering sustainable development. This echoes the approach of Government guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Policy GP1: Securing Sustainable Development

When considering development proposals the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It will always work proactively with applicants to jointly find solutions, which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan (and, where relevant, with policies in Neighbourhood Plans) will be approved without delay unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

3.4. At the heart of the Government's national policy on planning is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. All plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.

3.5. Policy GP1 enshrines this ethos of national policy and seeks to ensure that positive planning is delivered expediently whilst ensuring that the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental, are achieved jointly through the delivery of sustainable development.

3.6. Furthermore, the planning system should play an active role in guiding development to sustainable solutions. Through implementing Policy GP1, the Council will take local circumstances into account, in order to be able to respond to different opportunities for achieving sustainable development as they arise.