

Otterpool Park Working Group

Held at:	Folkestone Room - Civic Centre Folkestone
Date	Monday, 7 October 2019
Present	Councillors Ray Field, Gary Fuller, Jim Martin, David Monk (Chairman), Terence Mullard and David Wimble
Apologies for Absence	None
Officers Present:	Kate Clark (Committee Services Officer), Andy Jarrett (Chief Strategic Development Officer), John Bunnett (Corporate Director - Place and Commercial Services), Tim Madden (Corporate Director - Customer, Support and Specialist Services), Susan Priest (Head of Paid Service), Charlotte Spendley (Assistant Director) and Julia Wallace (Masterplanning Project Manager)
Others Present:	Councillors Lesley Whybrow, Connor McConville, Tim Prater and Ian Meyers

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. **Purpose of the Working Group**

The terms of reference document of the Working Group was highlighted to members.

3. **Council Objectives**

The Council's objectives were highlighted to members;

- Keep councillors informed about progress on the development of Otterpool Park.
- Provide strategic oversight
- To act as an informal body in challenging the project to ensure high quality outcomes.
- Monitor the delivery of the project.

- Enable Councillors to champion the Garden Town

The Council's five year housing land supply & its significance were outlined to the group.

The location of the site was discussed and officers confirmed that other potential areas for housing development in the District are subject to flooding and AONB constraints.

Officers confirmed one objective of the project is to provide income and capital to the District enabling financial security for the future.

4. **Progress to date**

Members received information with regard to phasing along with a map showing the whole area.

A planning application for 8500 homes has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Phasing of the development is key and initially the plan would be to commence Phase 1A which would include high density dwellings and phase 1b which would be more family homes at a lower density.

Members were keen to ensure that the Council considers high quality technology which would attract digital and creative employment. Sustainable and forward thinking transport options will be paramount, although traditional methods may be used to monitor in the short term. Longer term aspirations will include catering for electric vehicles with the relevant infrastructure.

Members agreed it was important that the Otterpool Park Development is held up as an exemplar of future technology.

Further discussions took place on financial issues, appropriate scrutiny and land ownership.

5. **Delivery vehicle**

Discussions took place around:

- Sustainability
- Commercial aspects
- Land ownership

6. **Programme and next steps**

Members were advised a report will be brought to Cabinet and Full Council in November outlining the current position and proposals for additional capital funding.

Further subjects for this Working Group to consider would be:

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- Housing mix
- Future mobility and technology
- Biodiversity
- Design
- Employment
- Long term stewardship

It was proposed that the next meeting of this Working Group would be in approximately two to three weeks' time.