

PETITION – PROTECTION OF THE GREEN BELT IN BYFLEET AND WEST BYFLEET

Executive Summary

The Council has received a petition seeking the protection from development of the Green Belt in Byfleet and West Byfleet. In accordance with Woking Borough Council's arrangements for petitions, the matter has been referred for consideration by the Council

Recommendations

The Council is requested to consider the petition and determine accordingly.

Background Papers: Petition.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A petition has been received seeking protection of the Green Belt in Byfleet and West Byfleet. The petition consists of both a paper submission and an online e-petition submitted through the Council's website. The petition as a whole contains 1,250 signatures, comprising 454 paper signatories and 796 electronic signatories.
- 1.2 The number of signatures exceeds the threshold required for a petition to be referred to a meeting of Full Council and accordingly the Petitioner or their nominee has been invited to present the petition at Council.
- 1.3 The petition has been submitted in the following terms:

"We the undersigned petition Woking Borough Council to Protect Byfleet and West Byfleet's Remaining Green Belt.

We believe that no land should be removed from the Green Belt for development unless there are very special circumstances and all other options including brown field sites have been exhausted.

It is also imperative that no major developments are implemented in Byfleet until the proposed Flood Alleviation Plan is implemented.

The Office for National Statistics has recently revised its household projections to show that less new housing is needed than previously thought.

This petition refers to the Site Allocations Development Plan Document, approved by Woking Borough Council on 18th October 2018, which has questionable long term forecasts and does not include recent developments.

It is important that people signing this petition should also visit <http://www.woking2027.info/allocations> and respond formally to the public consultation."

- 1.4 The on-line petition went live on 9 November 2018 and the Petitioner formally asked for it to be closed on 21 January 2019 (it was initially due to run to May 2019).

2.0 Petitions Scheme

- 2.1 As the number of signatories exceeds 400, the petition falls to be debated at full Council. In accordance with the Council's scheme for dealing with petitions, the petitioner has been invited to attend the meeting and present the petition. The presentation of a petition is limited to not more than three minutes, and should be confined to reading out, or summarising, the purpose of the petition, indicating the number and description of signatories, and making supporting remarks relevant to the petition.
- 2.2 Following the presentation, Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of the petitioner. Thereafter, the Council will discuss the petition and determine what action, if any, is to be taken.

3.0 Officer Comments

- 3.1 It is recommended that this petition should be taken into consideration as part of the review of the responses received in respect of the consultation on the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). The consultation by Woking Borough Council took place between 5 November and 17 December 2018.

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- 3.2 The Council's intention is to submit the Site Allocations DPD to the Secretary of State by the end of July 2019. Anyone who feels that the Council has not taken their views into account will have the opportunity to submit their representation to the Secretary of State.

REPORT ENDS