

DECISION RECORD ¹

Leader Urgent Non-Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Part 4 of the Council's Constitution [Part 4e - Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules \(stevenage.gov.uk\)](#))

Subject: Submission of Design Proposals for The Oval to the Local Planning Authority	
Staff Contact: Ash Ahmed & Simon Nuttall Tel: 01438 242968	Executive Members: Members of the Housing Development Working Group – Cllrs Richard Henry / Jeanette Thomas / Simon Speller / Sandra Barr / Joan Lloyd Portfolio: Housing and Housing Development

1. **Decision**

The decision is to submit the proposed Oval scheme to the Local Planning Authority for consideration and decision.

2. **Reasons for the decision**

Following on from extensive stakeholder consultation since November 2022, the proposed designs for The Oval have been continuously developed taking on board feedback. These designs are now sufficiently detailed to seek an outline Planning approval for the entirety of the site, with a detailed application for the first phases.

There have been four series of community consultation beginning in November 2022, with additional sessions in February 2023, July 2023 and November 2023. Members of the Housing Development Working Group and Ward Members were also consulted at each of these stages.

The community consultations have generated over 7000 responses and have helped to shape the final proposals. In the final consultation in November 2023, 62% of all respondents stated that they believe the current proposals meet the aspirations of the community, with only 13% in disagreement with this statement.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected ²**

The options to carry out further design development ahead of submission and to abort the project were both considered and rejected. This scheme represents one of the key elements of the Housing Development pipeline agreed within the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and is supported by the community.

4. **Consultation**

(a) Comments of Executive Member ^{3 4}

All Members of the Housing Development Working Group have been consulted on the designs and have agreed their submission.

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(b) Comments of other consultees ⁵

Public consultation has taken place as per section 2 of the decision Record.

5. **Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**

Signed: ...RICHARD HENRY [Signature redacted].....

Title:Leader of The Council Date: ...27 November 2023.....

6. **PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED/SIGNED FORM TO CONSTITUTIONAL SERVICES FOR PUBLICATION**

¹ for guidance see Borough Solicitor's note "Taking Decisions"

² details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time the decision was made

³ record any conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member consulted. If an Executive Member declares a conflict of interest DO NOT PROCEED without seeking advice from the Borough Solicitor

⁴ If the matter has general significance for the Council and/or is, or is likely to be, controversial, then the officer shall consult the appropriate Executive Member before proceeding. In some cases it will be necessary to consult more than one Executive Member, and in some cases the Leader of the Council will need to be consulted

⁵ If the matter has local significance, but no general significance for the Council and no controversial aspects, the officer shall consult or inform the local member in writing (or by e mail) and proceed. It is essential that all officers responsible for delivering services ensure that local members are kept well briefed on issues affecting their areas.