

**NEA response to Sir Bob Russell's statement:**

The NEA would like to clarify the issue raised on the November 2017 Local Plan Committee but considers that it has previously provided sufficient information to the Inspector on the other issues noted by Sir Bob Russell in his statement.

The Councils Local Plan committee did indeed meet on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Sir Bob was one of several speakers under the general 'Have Your Say' section rather than in respect of a particular item on the agenda, which included the Issues and Options DPD consultation forming the initial stage of the DPD preparation process for the Garden Communities that fall within Colchester Borough.

As is described in his statement, Sir Bob made a number of comments on the importance of protecting Salary Brook from future development and the approved minutes state the following;

“Sir Bob Russell addressed the Committee pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(3). He referred to the minutes of the previous meeting and the comments in relation to Salary Brook. He considered the proposals in relation to Middlewick should be resisted at all costs and that the Ministry of Defence was being negligent in planning to sell off one of its two firing ranges in a Garrison town. From his reading of the map contained in the Issues and Options document he noted that, so far as Salary Brook Valley was concerned, there would be no development on the Eastern Slopes of Salary Brook, and as such, he thanked the Committee, the ward councillors and the officers for this acknowledgement of the arguments made over a number of months. He was of the view that, in order to prevent any potential misunderstanding between landowners and developers, this acknowledgement also needed to be reflected in the text in the document, to the effect that 'There shall be no development on the eastern side of Salary Brook which is visible from Greenstead and Longridge'.

The Committee agreed that protection of that area should continue to be included in future iterations of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community DPD and it was highlighted by a member of the Committee, that the Issues and Options DPD Consultation Report already contained wording relating to the protection of Salary Brook (in the draft Vision on p.13; in the emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy on pp.18-19; and in the Concept Framework where the area is shown as part of the settlement's green infrastructure network). This approach reflects the NEA's commitment to protect Salary Brook which is enshrined in Section 1 of the Local Plan at Policy SP8 where it explicitly references the creation of a new country park at Salary Brook.

Sir Bobs comments were in respect of the Issues and Options DPD Reports and not the Local Plan which is the subject of the current examination. Subsequent comments made by Committee members referring to the inclusion of additional wording on the subject of Salary Brook's protection therefore refer to later iterations of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community DPD and not the Local Plan. The Committee was not, and could not have been, referring to the Local Plan because by that date it had already been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

This was clarified when the minutes were agreed at the committee meeting in December. Relevant extracts follow;

### **Minutes of 6 November 2017**

The Chairman proposed an amendment to the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2017 regarding a textual change to the Tendring and Colchester Borders Garden Community document in relation to Salary Brook. He explained that it was not possible to change the Issues and Options document as it had already been published for consultation purposes and so the textual change would be made to the next version of the Development Plan Document, to be formulated following the public consultation exercise.

In terms of timescales, the Place Strategy Manager explained that the extended period of consultation would finish towards the end of January 2018, at which time the examination of the Local Plan itself would be taking place. Consultation responses would feed into the next version of the Plan, as such it would seem appropriate for any change to the text to be reflected in the content of the Preferred Options which she was expecting to be published in the summer of 2018. The Chairman further indicated that arrangements for the proposed change in text in relation to Salary Brook to be circulated to the Committee members before the next version of the Plan was published.

In response to a request for clarification from Councillor Jowers, the Place Strategy Manager confirmed her view that the change in text would not mean that part of the Plan had been determined in its final form.