

Councillor Margaret Cooksey **Planning**

Local Plan

I am happy to report that the recent Local Plan consultation was a successful engagement. I outlined the efforts made to raise awareness and engage with residents in my last update to Council and can confirm that the consultation saw 4029 accepted responses from 3701 individual respondents. This equates to just shy of seven times as many responses as the Issues & Options consultation of 2017. To give some context among the authorities surveyed, response rates expressed as a percentage of population varied from under 1% to just under 5%. The highest rates identified were in Waverley, Guildford, Elmbridge and Tandridge, all of whom reported responses in the range 3.5%-4.9%. MVDC's response rate sits in the upper end of that range, at 4.2% (by number of respondents) or 4.6% (by number of responses).

Of course quantity of responses is one thing but the content is exceptionally important. Officers are looking through responses in great detail, however, it is apparent that there is a significant proportion of respondents that have concerns about the use of greenfield land to meet development needs. Members will no doubt have seen the recommendation to the Scrutiny Committee to announce that the Council will not be submitting the Plan for examination this year but instead will be considering responses further, including discussion at the Planning Policy Working Group, before deciding how to proceed and over what timescale.

Development Management

Members will note from the papers this evening that many of the recommendations of the peer review have been undertaken following consideration by the improvement panel, board and the Scrutiny Committee, all of whom I am grateful for their contributions. Once it is an appropriate time for consultation we will progress the Planning Charter and set up agent forums to engage with our customers.

Whilst visits have been on hold these will slowly start up again subject to risk assessments. Virtual development management meetings have been proving successful.

Southern Building Control Partnership

The building control partnership, **Southern Building Control Partnership**, is hosted by Tandridge District Council. During the Covid crisis the partnership board has met virtually twice, in March and May. The partnership has seen a reduction in income and should this continue there would be a cost to Mole Valley at the end of the year, in line with the proportions agreed in the Inter Authority Agreement. All planned recruitment has been put on hold for the year as well as IT upgrades. Site visits were stopped and the partnership put in place virtual inspections where those were possible. However, there are signs of recovery. Site visits recommenced on the 16 June with a significantly updated risk assessment and PPE provision put in place by the host authority to protect their staff and residents, builders and developers across the partnership area.