

## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Cabinet

Date 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011

### **Draft Core Strategy 2**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mrs Dyer
Relevant Manager - Strategic Planning Manager	Mike Dunphy
Non-Key Decision	

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the Draft Core Strategy 2 (DCS2) for the purposes of public consultation. The consultation period would run from 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011 to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Draft Core Strategy 2 as set out in Appendix A to this report is endorsed and approved for the purposes of public consultation.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet recommend that the consultation period runs from 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011 to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011.
- 2.3 That Delegated Authority is granted to the Strategic Planning Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make further essential revisions to the draft prior to its publication.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The purpose of the Core Strategy is to set out the vision, objectives and key policies which will guide development within the District up to 2026.
- 3.2 The Core Strategy has been the subject of several drafts and periods of public consultation:
- Two periods of consultation took place on Issues and Options in 2005 and 2007 and the findings were presented in the Consultation Document.
  - The first version of the Draft Core Strategy went out to consultation in October 2008 and was accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal and the Consultation Document.
  - A special consultation was held ending in February 2010 jointly between Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council. This highlighted locational options for Redditch related cross- boundary growth based on the requirements of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Panel report

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- 3.3 On 6<sup>th</sup> July the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies under s 79 (6) of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. However, on the 10<sup>th</sup> November in a High Court ruling the method by which the RSS's had been revoked was found to be unlawful. The judge also ruled that the sustainability impacts of revoking the RSS should also have been assessed and as this wasn't, the revocation is also unlawful on these grounds. The Government has since reiterated its intention to revoke/abolish Regional Spatial Strategies and a clause in the draft Decentralisation and Localism Bill (The Bill) published on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 states:

*'(1) Part 5 of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (regional strategy) is repealed  
(2) The regional strategies under Part 5 of that Act are revoked.'*

- 3.4 The Government has also signalled its intention to radically reform the planning system and introduce new national planning policy.
- 3.5 The Bill also introduces the principle of neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders, which together with the policies in DCS2 seek to provide communities with a greater degree of control over the future of their neighbourhoods.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The revised DCS2 differs from the DCS1 as firstly, it has been restructured to more logically address key issues in the District. An "At a Glance" box has been added which indicates how each policy relates to the Sustainable Community Strategy and summarises how each policy has been influenced, for example, by public consultation and national guidance. Secondly, DCS2 for the first time formally consults on revised housing figures for the District of 4000 new units to 2021. It also suggests that the DCS is reviewed before 2026 to ascertain whether 2-3000 additional housing units to meet Bromsgrove's housing needs can be brought forward in a sustainable manner. Thirdly, it consults on strategic site allocations in the form of expansion sites around Bromsgrove Town and on 'Other Development Sites' around the District required to come forward to meet the initial 4000 target. It also seeks to gain an appreciation of what consultees understand to be their "neighbourhood", which will be used as a basis for future consultation.
- 4.2 24 policies are proposed which are grouped under 5 main themes including:  
1) Development Strategy

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This set of policies seeks to set future housing and employment targets for the District up to 2026, with a review date around 2021. It sets out clearly a settlement hierarchy for the District; establishes a set of general development principles for all new development; contains a site allocations policy and begins to address the new “localism” agenda.

4.3 2) No Place like Home

These policies establish the parameters for the expected focus of housing mix; affordable housing targets, focusing on specific needs such as 2/3 bedroomed homes, homes for the elderly and homes for specific groups such as gypsies, travellers and showpeople, all within the overall context of providing sustainable communities.

4.4 3) Lets Do Business

This suite of policies focuses on the local economy, emphasising the importance of rural regeneration and diversification; new employment particularly in high tech industries; the importance of supporting existing employment and highlights the importance of sustainable transport and communication to economic success.

4.5 4) The One and Only Bromsgrove

These policies emphasise the factors which make Bromsgrove unique or locally distinctive and how these components can be preserved and enhanced. This includes regeneration of the Town Centre, (which is expanded upon in the Town Centre Area Action Plan); managing the environment whether historic or natural and ensuring all new design embraces the principles of sustainability and are consistently of a high quality.

4.6 5) The Future in our Hands

These policies look to the future and seek to address the impacts of climate change; manage water, for example in terms of flooding; incorporates and recognises the multi functionality of green infrastructure whilst protecting the Green Belt and recognises how planning decisions can impact positively on health and well being.

4.7 Where developer contributions fit into the process, the importance of delivery of the CS, implementation and monitoring is also addressed.

4.8 As in previous consultations the consultation will be widely publicised and will aim to reach as many residents as possible. It is intended that information will be provided at the Council House, at the Customer Service Centre and the libraries. A “drop in” session will also be held at the Council House and targeted meetings will be held with Parish Councils if desired. As

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consultation on DCS2 coincides with consultation on the Town Centre Area Action Plan (TCAAP) there will be opportunities to publicise and consult on each plan simultaneously with resultant efficiencies and savings.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications of receiving this report. The documents will be developed in house. Printing and any subsequent costs for publicity and exhibition material will be met from the existing budget which exists for the Core Strategy.
- 5.2 Alongside policies in the TCAAP the introduction of new mechanisms for collecting and distributing developer contributions, and new national schemes such as the *'new homes bonus'* could have longer term impacts on Council budgets although at this stage these are difficult to predict.

### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Core Strategy once adopted will become part of the Statutory Development Plan for the District required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Amendment Regulations 2008.

### **7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Bromsgrove District Council's LDF forms the Development Plan for the District. The Core Strategy is a key document in the LDF with which all other documents including the TCAAP must be in compliance.

### **8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

- 8.1 The policies in the Core Strategy will contribute towards achieving the following Council Objectives:
- CO1 Regeneration- priorities Town Centre and Economic Development
  - CO3 One Community- priorities One Community and Housing
  - CO4 Environment- priority Climate Change

### **9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 The main risk associated with the details of this report is the inability to produce a Development Plan Document which is judged to be justified and effective by the Planning Inspectorate and therefore resulting in a non legally compliant Strategic planning service

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9.2 These risks are being managed as follows:

- Non legally compliant Strategic Planning service  
Risk Register: *Planning and Regeneration*  
Key Objective Ref No: 4  
Key Objective: Effective, efficient and legally compliant Strategic Planning Service

### **10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The Core Strategy is likely to have an impact on many different aspects of peoples lives including living, working, shopping, leisure and educational choices together with the ability to make a direct contribution in the decision making process. Public consultation has been and will be extensively undertaken throughout the process and this is likely to take on even more significance as the new planning system and the opportunities for collaborative democracy unfold.

### **11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 An Equalities Impact assessment will be undertaken on the final submission version of the Core Strategy. Attempts will be made to ensure all sections of society are consulted and are involved in the process as the plan progresses towards completion and this will be monitored on Consultation feedback forms.

### **12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

12.1 Whilst there are no direct value for money implications connected with this report, methods to ensure value for money are continuously being explored, for instance via joint procurement for external consultancy work and joint consultation exercises.

12.2 As consultation on DCS2 coincides with consultation on the Town Centre Area Action Plan there will be opportunities to publicise and consult on each plan simultaneously with resultant efficiencies and savings.

### **13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

13.1 National Planning Policy carries a requirement to address adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change. It also has a requirement to ensure that implications from development on biodiversity are minimised

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and mitigated against. The CS contains policies which seek to achieve this at the local level.

### **14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 None identified

### **15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 None identified

### **16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

16.1 As reduction of crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour have been identified as important issues in consultation exercises on both the Core Strategy TCAAP and the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Core Strategy will seek to ensure that community safety is maximised by including a High Quality Design Policy which seeks to ensure that all developments meet "Secured By Design" standards.

### **17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

17.1 A Health Impact Assessment will be completed for the Core Strategy which will ensure that wherever possible the policies in the Core Strategy will actively promote health gain for the local population, reduce health inequalities and not actively damage health. A specific policy is included in the Core Strategy entitled Health and Well Being specifically addresses this issue.

### **18. LESSONS LEARNT**

18.1 Monitoring of previous consultations has identified a limited response from certain demographic groups. Consultation will therefore aim to target groups that have previously had limited involvement with the Core Strategy process in order to maximise and achieve a more balanced response.

### **19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

19.1 Consultation on the Core Strategy will be carried out in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement. There have been ongoing discussions with relevant stakeholders as part of the continuing consultation process to identify any issues relevant to the delivery of the Plan.

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### **20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	Yes-LDFWG
Chief Executive	Yes- CMT
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes- CMT
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	Yes-CMT
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes-CMT
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes-CMT
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	Yes-CMT
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes-CMT
Corporate Procurement Team	No

### **21. WARDS AFFECTED**

All wards

### **22. APPENDICES**

Appendix A- Draft Core Strategy 2

### **23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Core Strategy is underpinned with an extensive evidence base which can be viewed on the Council's website [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/corestrategy)

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