

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY

WEDNESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2007

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E. (Chairman), S. R. Colella, G. N. Denaro, Mrs. R. L. Dent, R. Hollingworth, E. J. Murray, S. R. Peters, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, E. C. Tibby and C. J. K. Wilson

Observers: Councillor G. G. Selway

Officers: Mr. P. Street, Mr. D. Hammond, Mr. M. Dunphy, Mr. A. Fulford, Miss H. Pankhurst and Ms K Firth

8/07 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. M. Bunker and Mrs. J. D. Luck.

9/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

10/07 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Party held on 19th July 2007 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

11/07 **THE REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY - PHASE 2 REVISION PREFERRED OPTION**

The Working Party considered a report which summarised the preferred options of the Phase 2 revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which focused on housing figures, employment land, town and city centres, transport and waste. It was noted that the final version of the Phase 2 revision would be considered by the Regional Planning Partnership on 22nd October 2007 and that following subsequent submission to the Secretary of State there would be a 12 week formal consultation.

Particular attention was drawn to the low housing allocation figure (2,100) for Bromsgrove in the period up to 2026, the impact of this on the level of affordable housing that could be provided, and the proposal for 3300 of the housing allocation for Redditch to be located within adjacent areas in the districts of Bromsgrove and Stratford which would required the release of substantial green belt land.

During the discussion Members expressed their concerns about the implications of these housing allocation figures, particularly with regard to the detrimental impact on the provision of affordable housing which it was felt would impact on the make-up of the population of Bromsgrove by leading to the loss of young people, and to the need to release green belt land to accommodate a proportion of Redditch's housing allocation which was inconsistent with the Council's policy of protecting green belt land. There was a strong feeling that the proposals should be challenged.

Whilst acknowledging the implications, officers drew Members' attention to the significant risks to the Council with regard to the Local Development Framework and the preparation of the Core Strategy if Members were to reject the RSS Phase 2 revision.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that Bromsgrove District Council understands the importance in planning policy terms of formally endorsing an option at the Regional Planning Partnership and in particular the current draft option of the RSS phase 2 revision, with the exception of policy T12 which identifies the Longbridge Link road as priority for investment;
- (b) however, the Council requests the Partnership to reflect on two factors where the Council would like further consideration to be given to the impact that will arise before a final decision is made; namely:
 - (i) the planning logic of one authority being able to build in another's area when the receiving authority is constrained from building itself; and
 - (ii) the short and longer term impact on future homelessness costs and solutions of the intended limited new build quotas.

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm

Chairman