

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY**

**THURSDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 2007 AT 2.00 PM**

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E. (Chairman), Councillor S. R. Colella, Councillor G. N. Denaro, Councillor Mrs. R. L. Dent, Councillor R. Hollingworth, Councillor E. J. Murray, Councillor E. C. Tibby and Councillor L. J. Turner

**Officers:** Mr. P. Street, Mr. M. Dunphy, Mr. A. Fulford, Ms. R. Williams, Ms. H. Pankhurst, and Ms. R. Cole.

12/07 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. J. D. Luck, S. R. Peters, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey J.P. and C. J. K. Wilson.

13/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were received.

14/07 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Working Party held on 10th October 2007 were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

15/07 **ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2006-2007**

The Working Party considered the Annual Monitoring Report covering the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007. The report reviewed the actual plan progress compared with the targets and milestones for Local Development Document preparation set out in the Local Development Scheme. Members asked a number of questions arising from the report in particular in relation to flooding issues. The 2001 Census figures quoted in the report in relation to housing issues were also queried and Officers were requested to report back to the next meeting regarding the basis on which these figures were calculated.

**RESOLVED** that the Annual Monitoring Report be submitted to the Government Office of the West Midlands.

16/07 **CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report summarising the responses to the Issues and Options consultations on the Core Strategy. The summary document comprised the consultation responses which had been received which addressed the key issues within the Bromsgrove District.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report "Executive Summary: Issues and Options" be noted and that the responses from the consultation process be used to develop preferred options for the Core Strategy.

17/07 **INTRODUCTION TO THE HABITAT INVENTORY**

The Working Party considered a report and received a brief presentation which introduced a new Geographic Information System tool entitled Habitat Inventory. The Inventory would assist in the creation of the Local Development Framework and also with the determination of planning applications which had implications in relation to the protection and enhancement of wildlife.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

18/07 **LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

The Working Party considered a report on the latest position regarding the Longbridge Area Action Plan and on progress made since the previous report. It was now anticipated that the final Area Action Plan would be presented for approval early in 2008. Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

19/07 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2008-2011**

Consideration was given to a report on the revision of the Local Development Scheme including new timetables for the Development Plan Documents currently in preparation. The revision of the timetable for production of the Core Strategy was of particular significance in view of the indications arising from the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy. It was reported that the issue of the Council's response to the Regional Spatial Strategy requirement to meet the growth needs of Redditch within the district was addressed in a separate report. Following discussion it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the revised Local Development Scheme be submitted to the Government Office West Midlands for approval.

20/07 **REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY PHASE 2 PREFERRED OPTION SUBMISSION**

The Working Party considered a report on the latest position regarding the revised Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The report also detailed the

consultation exercise being undertaken and the process by which representations to the submitted version of the RSS could be made.

There was detailed discussion regarding the level of housing allocated to Bromsgrove within the RSS, particularly with regard to the need for affordable housing in the district, together with the amount and location of Redditch related housing and employment growth proposed within Bromsgrove and/or Stratford District. Whilst this growth could be partially met by the use of brownfield sites within the district, the RSS was indicating it should be located adjacent to Redditch town which would require the release of green belt land. The possible implications for the Council should an objection be submitted were also considered.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) that objections to the RSS be submitted in respect of the level of housing allocated to Bromsgrove and to the level of Redditch related housing and employment growth to be provided within Bromsgrove and/or Stratford in locations adjacent to Redditch town, when alternative more strategically viable sites within the district are available.
- (b) that the Portfolio Holder for Planning be requested to write to the appropriate Officers at the Government Office for the West Midlands and the West Midlands Regional Assembly together with the local MP, expressing concern over the decision making process at the Regional Planning Partnership on 22nd October 2007.

The meeting closed at 4.05 pm

Chairman