



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TOPIC PROPOSAL

<p>Name of Proposer: Cllr Steve Colella</p> <p>Tel No: 07758 739901__ Email: s.colella@bromsgrove.gov.uk</p> <p>Date: 6th August 2015</p>	
Title of Proposed Topic:	Inquiry into the impact of the Whitford Rd appeal decision; including impact on emerging local plan, soundness of previous planning decisions and confidence in WCC Highways.
Specific subject areas to be investigated:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision process which led WWC Highways to raise no objections to the proposed road infrastructure plans, decision process which led the case officer and senior development officers to recommend approval. • How the emerging Development Plan will be affected by this decision. • Soundness of previous major planning decisions which were approved by the Planning Committee with specific highways impact implications. • Effect of the decision on future weight given to WCC Highways response to current and future planning applications.
Reasons why this subject should be considered:	The long term strategic and development planning control implications for the district, reputational and ability to make planning decisions that are robust, sound and deliver positive sustainable development to the district, which is visionary and has universal support.
Evidence to support the need for this particular investigation:	The Inspector's report and decision into the applicant's appeal of refusal.
Council priorities it links to:	
Possible key outcomes: (i.e. what do you anticipate could be achieved?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probable outcomes will be to react positively to the wider implications of the Inspector's report and comments. • Revision of the Council's infrastructure management plan in light of the Inspectors decision and comments. • Request for this council to resubmit its

Please return completed forms to: Committee Section,
Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, Bromsgrove District Council
Email: scrutiny@bromsgrove.gov.uk

	<p>Development Plan in order to give greater confidence to the Inspector, members and public that the Bromsgrove Development Plan is safe and the impact of the housing development targets and site selection is robust, justifiable and meets the necessary material NPPF test on (Highways) sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A measured impact of the (Highways) sustainability and risk of imposed housing on Bromsgrove settlements from neighbouring authorities. • Root and branch review of WCC Highway's decision making process to reinstate confidence in WCC Highways to deliver highways schemes that conform to NPPF and BDC infrastructure Plans • Build confidence in the ability of Strategic and Development Control functions in Bromsgrove are fit for purpose and fully representative of the member's, people and stakeholders across the district. • Assessment of the decision of previously approved major planning applications which had significant concerns raised over highways impacts, the highways mitigation methodology and conclusions, the suitability of this mitigation and the reassessment of highways impacts and mitigation of these approvals.
--	--

Please indicate if any of the following apply to the proposed subject area:

CRITERIA	NO	YES	Why?
Is it a priority issue for the Council or the Local Strategic Partnership?		Y	The Council and its component Strategic Planning and Planning services are at risk of wider Government intervention under special measures. The Planning services are already under this measure and the risk of this decision can potentially result in the Development Plan being found unsafe in many ways. There is a risk to its ability to carry out its own functions and risks adverse reputational damage. The partnership includes highways and is a strategically important aspect of

Please return completed forms to: Committee Section,
 Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, Bromsgrove District Council
 Email: scrutiny@bromsgrove.gov.uk

		the districts functionality.
Is it an important issue for local residents?	y	Highways issues, traffic congestion, air quality and poor quality of life are affecting residents' everyday lives as a result of poor highways decisions.
Is it a topic where Overview and Scrutiny could feasibly and constructively make recommendations?	Y	A task and finish group is recommended. Given the severity of the potential impact and the likelihood of the immediate effect on on-going planning applications, the development plan and strategic and development control decisions the task group will have a detailed but quick 'turn around' timescale of six months from approval.
Is it a topic where external review would be helpful?	y	Other planning authorities, free-lance planning inspectors, planning consultants with appropriate experience. etc
Is it a topic where a review could be made in time to make recommendations for the executive decision making process?	y	
Is it a poorly performing service?	y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Plan Inspector comments. • Whitford Rd Inspector's comments • Development control in special measures.
Is it a review that could render significant savings or value for money?	y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings in appeal costs. • Savings in repeat work. • Savings in consultant and additional staff.
Is the topic strategic in scope?	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning, • development planning • and highways planning. Sustainability.

Please return completed forms to: Committee Section,
Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, Bromsgrove District Council
Email: scrutiny@bromsgrove.gov.uk