

Response to consultation on The Black Country Core Strategy Issues and Options Report.

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	Yes
Non-Key Decision	Yes

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Black Country Authorities have been consulting on the Black Country Core Strategy Issues and Options report. Consultation on this report took place between 3rd July and the 8th September.
- 1.2 Appendix A is the informal officer responses submitted to the consultation. This consultation at this stage is non statutory, and should further responses need to be submitted it should be possible to do this through the ongoing engagement the Council has with the Black Country Authorities.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 That Cabinet recommends to Council that the draft officer response to the Black Country Core Strategy Issues and Options report (as attached at Appendix A) be approved by Council, and submitted to the Black Country Authorities as the consultation response.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The Black Country Authorities are carrying out the consultation in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. It is important that the Bromsgrove District Council engages at the appropriate stages in planning process, this is the first substantive opportunity to respond to the review of the Black Country Core Strategy.

Service / Operational Implications

Summary of Response - the Black Country Core Strategy Issues and Options report

- 3.3 The proposal being put forward by the Black Country is a partial review rather than full core strategy review, although the review will contain strategic allocations, which differs to the previous version of the Core Strategy. The response expresses tentative support for this approach, although highlights that the scale of development that is required may well necessitate a full review of the plan rather than a partial one.
- 3.4 The objectively assessed housing needs of the plan has been determined as being 78,190 dwellings for the period 2014-36. Capacity for 48,185 dwellings has already been already identified, a large element of which is brownfield. This leaves the Black Country 24,670 dwellings short of the target, when also testing 3000 dwellings for the wider needs of the conurbation. Approximately 300 hectares of land also needs to be found for employment needs.
- 3.5 This amount of development can only be accommodated by releasing land from the green belt. The Strategy highlights that the first strategic review of the green belt around the Black Country will be undertaken in about 40 years. It is also possible that land will also be required in districts adjoining the Black Country. The response expresses the Councils wish to be involved in any consideration of sites which are on the periphery of the Black Country which could have implications for BDC.
- 3.6 It is expected that green belt sites on the edge of the Black Country in the vicinity of Hagley will be submitted as possible development sites, some of these sites may well include land in Bromsgrove. The response asks for discussions to take place with the Black Country authorities once the extent of sites submitted around Bromsgrove is known.
- 3.7 Further comments are made in relation to infrastructure, expressing our concerns about the knock on effects of development in the Black Country and the need for a joined up approach to transport modelling.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.8 There are no Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications associated with this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The risks associated with not responding to these consultations is that BDCs views will not be taken into account by the Black Country Authorities. If further responses and attendance at future examinations are required, it is essential that the Council's views are expressed as clearly and early as possible.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix A – BDC response to the Black Country Core Strategy Issues and Options Report

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Black Country Core Strategy Issues and Options Report

7. KEY

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