

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Bromsgrove District Plan - Issues and Options Consultation

Cabinet

5th September 2018

Bromsgrove District Plan - Issues and Options Consultation

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	Yes – via Strategic Planning Steering Group
Non Key Decision	Yes

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030 (BDP) was adopted in January 2017. Within that Plan was a policy which required an early review. This report details the proposed Issues and Options Consultation, which is the first stage of Plan Review that is subject to public consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to the Council**

1. **That the Council publishes the BDP Review, Issues and Options documentation for the purposes of public consultation, between 24th September and 19th November 2018 inclusive.**

The content being

- The BDP review Issues and Options Report (Appendix A)**
- The draft Green Belt Purposes Assessment Methodology (Appendix B)**
- The draft Site Selection Methodology (Appendix C)**
- The Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix D)**

2. **That delegated authority is given to the Head of Planning and Regeneration Services in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing, to make any minor technical corrections and editorial changes deemed necessary to aid the understanding of the Issues and Options report prior to final publishing.**

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3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 At this stage in plan preparation the financial implications are very limited and are within existing budgets. As the plan develops further financial resources will be required to develop the technical evidence which will underpin the policies of the plan review. Should further financial resources be required this will be requested through the normal budget setting process.

Legal Implications

3.2 Early consultation on development plans is required by regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This consultation will be carried out in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

Service / Operational Implications

The Purpose of the Issues and Options Consultation

3.3 The Issues and Options consultation is the first stage in the Review of Bromsgrove's Development Plan. It is an early opportunity to check that the Council is considering the right issues through the Plan Review, and aims to seek views on the issues the Plan needs to address. In some instances, the Consultation Paper also puts forward some potential options for the future development strategy and policy development. It does not present new planning policies or allocate sites for development. The Consultation Paper outlines the emerging trends from the existing evidence base and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which are likely to face the District over the new Development Plan Period.

3.4 Alongside the Issues and Options Consultation, Officers have produced two draft methodology documents on the Green Belt Purposes Assessment, and Site Selection, which set out how the Council could undertake these key pieces of evidence to inform the Plan Review. The responses received to this consultation will be used alongside the technical evidence base to inform the development of Preferred Options for the Plan.

The Structure of the Consultation Document

3.5 The Issues and Options document contains a draft vision and strategic objectives which are informed by the Council's Strategic Purposes. The 12 Strategic Objectives build upon national planning policy and address key local challenges.

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3.6 The Issues and Options themselves are split into eight sections based on topic areas and include consultation questions and potential options to inform future policy development. A brief summary of each of these sections is set out below:

1. Strategic Issues for Bromsgrove District: Identifies the five strategic issues that will be at the heart of the BDP Review as: 1) Scale and timeframe of the new Plan; 2) Growing the economy and provision of strategic infrastructure; 3) Re-balancing the Housing Market through housing growth; 4) Broad options for development distribution and allocating land uses; 5) Co-operating with the West Midlands Conurbation to address wider development needs.

2. Housing: Sets out the further housing issues as informed by emerging evidence in relation to the following areas: 1) Housing density; 2) Affordable housing; 3) Housing Mix; 4) Homes for the elderly; 5) Self build and custom housebuilding and innovative design standards; 6) Accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

3. Employment: This section addresses the following issues: 1) Growing the Local Economy; 2) Type and Location of employment land; 3) Employment opportunities in rural Bromsgrove; 4) Telecommunications.

4. Transport: Congestion is a significant issue for the District. This section looks at the following issues: 1) Car journeys and impact on the road network; 2) Accessibility to public transport services; 3) Walking and cycling opportunities.

5. Town Centre and Local Centres: Identifies the key issues around 1) Bromsgrove Town Centre; 2) Town Centre Movement and Connectivity; 3) Local Centres.

6. Social Infrastructure: Raises the challenges when it comes to ensuring communities have access to supporting social infrastructure facilities and services. It specifically focuses on: 1) Community facilities; 2) Health and Education Facilities; 3) Open space, sport and recreation.

7. Natural and Historic Environments: Officers consider that the NPPF coupled with the existing natural and historic environment policies in the BDP provide a good level of protection for our assets. The options ask whether we should leave these policies as they are or make amendments to them.

8. Climate Change and Water Resources: The policies in the current plan add a local context and complement national policy. Officers consider that they serve the District well. The options focus on whether the policies are considered to be fit for purpose or require updating.

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Green Belt Purposes Assessment Methodology

3.7 In line with the adopted BDP, and as part of this Plan Review, the Council has committed to undertake a full review of the District's Green Belt. There is no national guidance on exactly how a Green Belt Assessment or Review should be undertaken. This draft methodology is the first step in this process, setting out how the Council thinks the Review should be undertaken and the purpose of the consultation is to seek views on the proposed approach, refine the methodology and gain endorsement of the process as this is a hugely important piece of work.

Site Selection methodology

3.8 The Site Selection work will have a close relationship with the Green Belt Purposes Assessment, as approximately 90% of the District is Green Belt, meaning it will be highly likely that the majority of sites needed to meet future development needs will fall within the current Green Belt. When finalised, the two resulting documents will form key components of the evidence base for the Plan Review. In order to identify land for development, the Council will need to consider a large variety of sites for potential allocation. It will be necessary to rigorously scrutinise these sites to ensure the most suitable, sustainable and deliverable sites are taken forward through the Plan Review process. This draft methodology is the first step in this process, setting out how the Council thinks the site selection process should be undertaken.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.9 The Issues and options documents will be widely consulted upon for an extended period of over 7 weeks to take into account the half term holiday period. Throughout that period many events will take place across the District and Officers will be present explain the content of the Issues and Options documentation. All the information will also be placed on our website at www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan and at key locations around the District such as libraries and other public buildings, where possible.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 At this stage in Plan preparation the risks are low, although should the Plan Review not commence and proceed in a timely manner there is a risk that the Council is left without an up to date Plan. An inability to control development across the District could result in development taking place in areas which may not be the preferred locations of the Council.

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5. APPENDICES

- A. The BDP review Issues and Options Report
- B. The draft Green Belt Purposes Assessment Methodology
- C. The draft Site Selection Methodology
- D. The Sustainability Appraisal

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Councils website www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan contains all the background information concerning the Plan and the examination in public.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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