

Response of BDC on Wyre Forest Local Plan Pre-Submission Version

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 Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) have published the Wyre Forest Local Plan Review pre submission plan (WFLP), the representation period on this plan and its supporting evidence is taking place between 1st November and 17th December.
- 1.2 It is requested that the objection as summarised below and included in full at appendix A, is submitted to WFDC as BDC's formal response to the pre submission plan. Due to the deadline of the representations period, the initial response will have to be submitted as an officer response.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE

- 2.1 **to endorse the officer response to the Wyre Forest Local Plan Review Pre submission plan (as attached at Appendix A) in order for it to be submitted before the end of the representation period.**

Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council that

- 2.2 **the officer response to the Wyre Forest Local Plan Review Pre submission plan, be approved by Council as its formal response, and that it is confirmed with Wyre Forest District Council as such.**
- 2.3 **Delegated Authority is given to the Head of Planning and Regeneration to ensure that BDC is represented at the Examination in Public element of the Wyre Forest Local Plan review.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

- 3.2 WFDC has published its pre submission plan in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 3.3 It is important that the Bromsgrove District Council submit a representation at this stage as this is the last opportunity to respond to the plan before the Examination in Public. Not responding at this stage would end BDC's ability to influence the content of the WFLP.

Service / Operational Implications

Summary of Response - Wyre Forest Local Plan pre-submission

- 3.4 The WFLP is in effect the final draft version of the plan and that which WFDC will be submitting to the Secretary of State to undergo Examination in Public.
- 3.5 BDC has responded to previous versions of the WFLP, most notably at preferred option stage in August 2017. At that stage the Council expressed concerns that the transport implications of the proposed development sites in Wyre Forest were not able to be quantified; and therefore mitigation strategies not properly identified.
- 3.6 Within the WFLP the focus for major new development remains predominantly to the north and east of Kidderminster, and adjacent to transport routes that flow towards Bromsgrove. The concerns expressed at the preferred option stage largely remain, the transport evidence that supports the plan has not advanced significantly, with the only substantive addition being a modelling report which shows where the impact of development is predicted to be.
- 3.7 Whilst this modelling work is to be welcomed, in isolation it does not provide the evidence that BDC stressed was needed in previous responses. Of particular concern is the outcome of the model which shows additional congestion on the routes into Bromsgrove and most notably through Hagley. Bypasses are suggested to alleviate this congestion although no evidence is presented on the rationale for way

a bypass is the correct solution. Without this supporting evidence the ability of the plan to actually deliver the mitigation is questioned. Therefore there is a very real danger that the effect of the modelling i.e. further congestion in Bromsgrove District becomes the reality.

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 submitting a representation is that BDCs views will not be taken into account by the inspector examining the WFLP.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix A – BDC response to WFLP

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- WFLP Pre submission Document
- WFLP Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- WFLP evidence base

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