

# **Bromsgrove Plan Review Update**

**Cabinet**

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

## **Bromsgrove Plan Review Update**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder  | Cllr A Kent                                 |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | Yes   |
| Relevant Head of Service   | Ruth Bamford                                |
| Wards Affected             | All   |
| Ward Councillor Consulted  | Yes – via Strategic Planning Steering Group |
| Non-Key Decision           | Yes   |

### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 This Report provides and update on the Bromsgrove District Plan Review process and outlines the next steps to be taken over the following months.
- 1.2 There are four main sections to the report
  - Response to the Issues and Options consultation
  - Plan Update and Further Consultation
  - Stage 1 Green Belt Purposes Assessment
  - The Call for Sites process

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to the Council**
  1. **That Council notes the response to the Issues and Options Consultation (Appendix 1).**
  2. **That Council notes and publishes for consultation, the Plan Update and Further Consultation document (Appendix 2), for a period of 6 weeks from 30<sup>th</sup> September to the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**
  3. **That Council notes the contents of the Stage 1 Green Belt Purposes Assessment (Appendix 3).**
  4. **That Council opens the Call for Sites process for a period of 6 weeks between 30<sup>th</sup> September to the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**
  5. **That delegated authority is given to the Head of Planning and Regeneration Services in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services, to make any minor technical corrections and editorial changes deemed necessary to aid the understanding of the documentation prior to final publishing.**

# **Bromsgrove Plan Review Update**

**Cabinet**

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

---

## **3. KEY ISSUES**

### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial issues associated with this report at the current time. As the Plan develops, further financial resources will be required to commission the technical evidence which will underpin the policies of the Plan Review. As part of the budget setting process a funding strategy will be required to progress the Plan Review to adoption.

### **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.

### **Service / Operational Implications**

### **Issues and Option Consultation response**

- 3.3 The Issues and Options consultation took place between 24<sup>th</sup> September and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Widespread consultation was undertaken across the whole District with officers arranging and attending at least 38 different events over the course of the 7 weeks.
- 3.4 The Council received representations from 196 individuals, organisations and statutory consultees, including the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. These consultation groups are categorised as follows:
- 21 Statutory Consultees
  - 9 Duty to Co-operate Bodies
  - 15 Interest Groups
  - 83 Landowners/Agents
  - 68 Local Residents

The 196 individuals, organisations and statutory consultees generated 3,563 representations in total. The total representations received in relation to each consultation Issue is set out in the table below:

| <b>Consultation Section</b>              | <b>Number of Reps</b> |
|--|-----------------------|
| Vision & Objectives of the District Plan | 140                   |

## **Bromsgrove Plan Review Update**

**Cabinet**

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Issues and Options   | 13  |
| Strategic Issue 1 (Scale & Timeframe of the new Plan)  | 261 |
| Strategic Issue 2 (Growing the Economy and the Provision of Strategic Infrastructure)                  | 105 |
| Strategic Issue 3 (Rebalancing the housing market through housing growth)                              | 212 |
| Strategic Issue 4 (Broad Options for Development distribution and allocating land uses)                | 278 |
| Strategic Issue 5 (Co-operating with the West Midlands conurbation to address wider development needs) | 152 |
| Housing  | 688 |
| Employment   | 174 |
| Transport  | 339 |
| Town Centre and Local Centres  | 125 |
| Social Infrastructure  | 177 |
| Natural and Historic Environments  | 70  |
| Climate Change and Water Resources   | 72  |
| Sustainability Appraisal   | 29  |
| Others   | 30  |
| Green Belt Purposes Assessment Methodology   | 592 |
| Site Selection Methodology   | 106 |

- 3.5 As can be seen from the table above the responses covered all elements of the consultation, with some elements generating more interest than others. This is not unsurprising for this stage in the consultation process. Appendix 1 of this report contains a summary of the responses for each of the sections above, as well as the full response tables where officers' responses to every representation can be seen in Appendix 1 of this report. Where possible, officers have responded in detail to the representations, however in many cases a detailed response cannot be provided at this stage in the plan-making process. Responses will be used to help formulate the evidence base and develop detailed policies for the Preferred Option version of the Plan. This is normal for this stage in the plan-making process; all responses are valued and will continue to be considered as the Plan evolves.
- 3.6 As can be seen from the summary section of Appendix 1, the responses we received in some instances did not provide a consensus view on a number of the topics or questions. In order to help inform the Preferred Option version of the Plan, it is felt that for some of the strategic issues further input is required. In order to facilitate that, a short Plan Update and Further Consultation document has been prepared for consultation to help further inform the development of the Preferred Option.

## **Bromsgrove Plan Review Update**

**Cabinet**

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

---

### **Plan Update and Further Consultation**

- 3.7 Appendix 2 contains the full version of the Plan Update and Further Consultation document. As described above, it is felt that further views should be sought on some of the more strategic issues which were contained within the original Issues and Options document. This document is not designed to re-consult on everything previously covered under Issues and Options, it is focussed on a number of key areas. The intention of this document is to bridge the gap between Issues and Options and the Preferred Option, by providing a possible direction of travel for some key elements of the Preferred Option.
- 3.8 The sections of the document are listed below.
- Timeframe and Scale of the Plan Review
  - Development Needs
  - Development Distribution
  - The Green Belt Exceptional Circumstances
  - The Call for Sites exercise and approach to Site Selection
  - Evidence Base
  - Infrastructure provision
  - Neighbourhood planning

### **Stage 1 Green Belt Purposes Assessment**

- 3.9 Alongside Issues and Options consultation was consultation on a methodology for the Green Belt Purposes Assessment. The Green belt in Bromsgrove has not benefited from a full assessment for a considerable number of years. The District Plans adopted in 2004 and 2017 did not benefit from the full extent of the Green Belt being assessed against the purposes of the Green Belt as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). During the Examination of the current District Plan, which was adopted in 2017, discussions at one point did focus on the need for a full Green Belt assessment to inform future versions of the Bromsgrove District Plan.
- 3.10 Appendix 3 to this report contains the Stage 1 Green Belt Purposes Assessment. This document should be read as the first stage in a wider process of Green Belt and site allocation work, which will ultimately inform the Preferred Option version of the Plan Review. This document does not, and is not intended to justify the release of land from the Green Belt; it does not consider the development potential of land, it is purely intended to establish a baseline of how the Green Belt currently performs against the purposes of the Green Belt.

## **Bromsgrove Plan Review Update**

**Cabinet**

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

---

- 3.11 It is not possible to draw very specific conclusions about individual Green Belt parcels or the Green Belt as a whole as at this stage in the process, this is not an unexpected outcome of the work. As can be seen from the maps and table within the document, and the individual parcel assessments, the Green Belt performs differently against the different purposes depending on the location of the parcel and the land around it. This Assessment has provided a baseline for the more detailed site assessment and Green Belt assessment work to follow.

### Call for Sites.

- 3.12 It expected that the most intensive element of the Plan Review process will be the consideration of development sites to meet future development needs. As has been discussed in both the original Issues and Options document and also the Plan Update and Further Consultation document (Appendix 2 to this report), land will have to be released from the Green Belt to meet these future development needs.
- 3.13 At the time of the Issues and Options consultation it was hoped that a detailed Site Selection Methodology could be established prior to the Call for Sites process. What has become clear after considering the responses to the consultation, is the inability to publish a detailed and fixed Methodology at this stage, without understanding the full extent of evidence that may be presented to the Council . The intention is now that the Methodology is developed to inform the Preferred Option, and which will be fully explained when the Preferred Option is published in due course.
- 3.14 The Call for Sites will now consist of a detailed form which will be required to be submitted for all sites. It has been designed to allow officers to begin to assess the potential of sites for possible future development. It is expected that many sites will be submitted across the District with differing levels of information to support them. It will be important for officers to fully understand the potential of all these sites and therefore as the Plan progresses it may be necessary for officers to request that further supplementary information is submitted in relation to proposed sites.

### Next Steps

- 3.15 Following on from the Plan Update and Further Consultation and the Call for Sites process, a new timetable for Plan production will be produced and presented to members. This will take into account the likely amount of work the Call for Sites process has generated. The diagram in Appendix 2 to this report shows the stages of plan production we are intending to follow.

### Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

## **Bromsgrove Plan Review Update**

**Cabinet**

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

---

- 3.16 All the material associated with this report will be placed on the Council's website and notices sent out to all those statutory and non-statutory consultees on our database. This will include all those people and organisations that responded at the Issues and Options stage, and anyone who has requested to be kept informed of the plan-making process. Any further consultation will be carried out in line with the adopted Statement of Community involvement.

#### **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

#### **5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Issues and Options Consultation Responses  
Appendix 2 - Bromsgrove District Plan Update and Further Consultation  
Appendix 3 - Bromsgrove Stage 1 Green Belt Purposes Assessment

#### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Please see District plan evidence base available here

<https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/policy-and-strategy/planning-policies/bromsgrove-district-plan-review/evidence-base.aspx>

#### **AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Mike Dunphy – Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager  
E Mail: m.dunphy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk  
Tel: 01527 881325