

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

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Adam Kent
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) has republished 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 September 2019 and 14th October 2019.
- 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 had to be submitted as an officer response.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That cabinet endorses the officer response to the Wyre Forest Local Plan Review Pre submission plan (as attached at Appendix A)**
- 2.2 **That Cabinet recommends to Council, that 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 **That 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 republished 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, this is the second time this version of the plan has been published.
- 3.5 BDC has responded to previous versions of the WFLP, most notably at preferred option stage in August 2017 and at the first pre submission representations period in December 2018. At both stages the Council expressed concerns that the transport implications of the proposed development sites in Wyre Forest were not able to be quantified; and therefore possible 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 and first pre submission stage largely remain as the transport evidence that supports the plan has not advanced enough to be able to clearly see the level of impact from development contained within the WFLP.
- 3.7 Of particular concern is the outcome of the modelling which shows additional traffic flows on the routes into Bromsgrove District and most notably through Hagley. The information only shows an increase in traffic, it does not compare it with a base information, therefore it is not possible to clearly understand what the impacts are likely to be. As a result it is not entirely clear how the schemes in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) have been developed to mitigate the impacts, when the impacts have not been shown in the evidence available. In addition to this no modeling has been done with the mitigation in place to demonstrate if the schemes do indeed mitigate the impacts.

- 3.8 The concerns outlined above are almost identical to the concerns raised at the same point in the process last year. Officers have been working with WFDC and WCC to attempt to address these concerns. Meetings have taken place where actions were agreed by all parties in an attempt to ensure that the revised evidence supporting the WFLP contains the information for the judgments outlined above to have been made.
- 3.9 Unfortunately arrangements made in the summer of 2019 which would have allowed more evidence to be available for this representation period, have not resulted in the delivery of the evidence. Therefore in addition to the concerns raised about the availability and quality of the evidence supporting the plan, it is felt that the Council has to raise the possibility of non-compliance with the duty to co-operate.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.10 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 officer response to WFLP

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- WFLP Pre submission Document
- WFLP Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- WFLP evidence base
- BDC response to WFLP December 2018

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