

## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Cabinet**  
2022

19<sup>th</sup> January

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### **Bromsgrove District Council – Response South Staffordshire Preferred Option Local Plan**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Phil Thomas
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Report Author Mike Dunphy	Job Title: Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Contact email: m.dunphy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881325
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Affordable and Sustainable Homes</li><li>• Communities which are Safe, Well Maintained and Green</li><li>• The Green Thread runs through the Council Plan</li></ul>
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

#### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Cabinet RECOMMEND to Council that:-**

- 1.1 The Council endorses the officer response to the South Staffordshire Local Plan (as attached at Appendix A) and that it is confirmed with South Staffordshire Council as such.**

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 On the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 South Staffordshire Council (SSC) published the Regulation 18 version of the South Staffordshire Local plan (SSLP), more commonly known as the Preferred Option. Previous consultation was undertaken in 2018 on the issues and options for the SSLP and in 2020 on the Spatial Housing Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery, BDC responded to these earlier consultations at that time.
- 2.2 The preferred option plan is much like other plans that members have been briefed on, most recently the Black Country Plan and the Solihull Local Plan. In common with most, if not all plans being progressed across the West Midlands a significant issue is how the plan has approached meeting the required housing and employment needs and whether or not the plan has attempted to address meeting the unmet housing needs stemming predominantly from Birmingham and the

Black Country. In this instance South Staffordshire Council are meeting their own housing and employment needs and also allocation land for the 4000 houses to meet the needs of the wider greater Birmingham Housing Market area (GBHMA).

- 2.3 The suggested response to this plan is attached at appendix A, in the main we are suggesting a similar response to previous iterations of this plan. In effect that the 4000 houses makes a useful contribution to meeting the overall needs, but the justification for it is not something which we could endorse as the approach Bromsgrove should take to this issue. The approach BDC will take will be informed by the evidence which is currently being collected, and will be contained within the preferred options version of the Bromsgrove plan, which is scheduled to be published in the summer of 2022.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report

**4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 South Staffordshire Council has published this plan in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 4.2 It is important that Bromsgrove District Council continues to engage in this process and under the Duty to Cooperate as the plan progresses to its next stage.

**5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**

**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 5.1 The response to the SSLP in itself does not have any direct implications for the strategic purposes at this stage. Ensuring that BDC is engaged and where appropriate influence plan making activities of adjoining authorities will ensure that the strategic purposes are not undermined by the plans of other local authorities.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 5.2 it is not considered that there are any specific climate change implications for Bromsgrove from the proposals in the SSLP. Although the planning process must continue to address the wider climate change concerns, part of this is scrutinising the plans prepared by other stakeholders.

**6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

6.1 The response has no Equality or Diversity implications.

**Operational Implications**

6.2 There are no operational implications.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 The risks associated with not submitting a representation is that BDCs views will not be taken into account by the South Staffordshire Council when progressing the Local Plan

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 – BDC response to South Staffordshire Local Plan.

**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Portfolio Holder	Phil Thomas	December 2021
Lead Director / Head of Service	Ruth Bamford	December 2021
Financial Services	James Howse	December 2021
Legal Services	Claire Felton	December 2021