

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY

Monday, 25th September 2006 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E. (Chairman), Mrs. K. M. Gall, R. Hollingworth, G. H. R. Hulett, Mrs. J. D. Luck, D. C. Norton, N. Psirides J.P., J. A. Ruck, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey J.P. and C. J. Tidmarsh.

07/06 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. N. Denaro and C.J.K. Wilson.

08/06 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Working Party held on 3rd August 2006 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

09/06 **A RE- INTRODUCTION TO THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

Officers gave a presentation which re-introduced Members to the Local Development Framework Process. The differences between this process and the previous Planning System were highlighted. It was appreciated that the intention was that the system would be less complicated, more responsive and better able to involve the community. Members were concerned however that certainly initially a great deal of additional work was required by Officers and Members. The revised timetable for the production of the various documents within the Local Development Framework was explained.

There was general discussion regarding the issue of Affordable Housing and housing targets. It was noted that the Authority's housing allocation would not be finally confirmed until December 2007.

RESOLVED: that the contents of the presentation be noted.

10/06 **REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

Consideration was given to a report relating to the need for the production of a revised Local Development Scheme to accurately reflect the changes which have occurred since the approval of the previous scheme in October 2005.

The main changes to the scheme were as follows:

- The inclusion of a Town Centre Area Action Plan
- Deferment of the production of the Core Strategy Preferred Options until July/August 2007
- Deferment of the production of the “Affordable Housing and “Managing Housing” Supplementary Planning Documents until February 2008
- Deferment of the production of Development Control Policies Development Plan Documents until November/December 2008

It was reported that in order to meet targets related to the Planning Delivery Grant System and Best Value Performance Indicators, the Local Development Scheme needed to be amended in accordance with the timetable attached to the report to reflect a more realistic timescale for document production over the next three years. It was reported that the amended scheme would need to be forwarded to the Government Office for the West Midlands for approval and that when this approval was received the scheme would need to be formally adopted by the Council.

RECOMMENDED: that the amended Local Development Scheme be submitted to the Government Office for the West Midlands for approval.

11/06

LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN

Consideration was given to the report on the progress made with regard to the preparation of an Area Action Plan for the former MG Rover works at Longbridge. It was reported that at the present time the Action Plan was still very much a “work in progress” and was not the definitive version. The proposals which were being put forward were intended to encourage debate and discussion and at present neither this Council nor Birmingham City Council were being requested to endorse any of the issues or options.

It was reported that a major change since this issue had first been considered was that a single Area Action Plan for the whole site was now being produced by the Project Group. The Action Plan would straddle the boundary between Birmingham and Bromsgrove. There was a general discussion regarding the various options put forward at this stage and there was some concern over the issue of the possible need for a link road as part of the development. It was confirmed that as part of the on going work a traffic survey was to be undertaken.

Members were also concerned that the public consultation on all of the issues and options should be as extensive as possible and that if possible, households in all relevant areas, including Alvechurch, Hopwood, Cofton Hackett and Rubery should receive copies of the next Newsletter. Officers undertook to check the circulation areas for the distribution of the newsletter and to request it's extension if necessary. It was noted that other consultation had taken place,

including visits to Cofton Hackett, Barnt Green and Alvechurch Parish Councils by St. Modwen Properties PLC and via the appropriate website.

It was felt it would be very useful for members to undertake a detailed site visit of the areas to be covered by the Action Plan to include if appropriate, an overall view of the site from a vantage point on the Lickey Hills.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) that an approach be made to the company undertaking the public consultation to request that the Newsletter is distributed to all relevant households;
- (c) that arrangements be made for members of the Working Party to visit the site.

12/06

GROUPS TO ADDRESS PLANNING POLICIES

There was a brief discussion regarding the process by which a number of small Working Groups to consider in detail and review various planning policies would be set up and would operate.

RESOLVED: that this matter be finalised by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Chairman of the Planning Committee and the Leader of the Council following discussion and that arrangements be made for the appropriate Groups to be established and to commence their considerations as soon as possible.

The Meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.

Chairman