

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LDF WORKING GROUP MEETING

28th MARCH 2007

SAVING LOCAL PLAN POLICIES

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mrs J Dyer
Responsible Head of Service	Dave Hammond, Head of Planning & Environment Services

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members on the position regarding policies contained within the existing Bromsgrove District Local Plan, prior to the adoption of the Core Strategy and other relevant Development Plan Documents.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Members note the contents of this report and agree that the policies described in the attached appendix should be either saved or discarded for the reasons provided.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 policies contained in the Bromsgrove District Local Plan were saved for 3 years from the 28th September 2004.

3.2 To save such policies beyond the expiry of this 3 year period, Local Planning Authorities need to seek the Secretary of State's agreement to issue a direction to save them.

3.3 Local Planning Authorities need to demonstrate that the policies they wish to be saved are consistent with current national policy and that it is not feasible to replace them by 27th September 2007.

3.4 Local Planning Authorities need to submit a list of saved policies to Government Offices by 1 April 2007. The list should be in two distinct parts:

- Those saved policies the LPA wishes to extend beyond the 3 years saved period, with reasons and
- Those saved policies the LPA does not wish to see saved beyond the 3 years saved period, with reasons

3.5 Government Offices will assess requests to save policies beyond 3 years in the light of criteria set out in Planning Policy Statement PPS12, which states that policies to be extended should comply with the following criteria:

1. where appropriate there is a clear central strategy
2. policies have regard to the Community Strategy for the area
3. policies are in general conformity with the regional spatial strategy
4. policies are in conformity with the core strategy DPD(not applicable)
5. there are effective policies for any parts of the authority's area where significant change in the use or development of land or conservation of the area is envisaged
6. policies are necessary and do not merely repeat national or regional policy

In addition the Government will also have particular regard to:

- policies that support the delivery of housing, including unimplemented site allocations, up to date affordable housing policies, policies relating to the infrastructure necessary to support housing;
- policies on Green Belt general extent in structure plans and detailed boundaries in local plans
- policies that support economic development and regeneration, including policies for retailing and town centres;
- policies for waste management including unimplemented site allocations;
- policies that promote renewable energy; reduce impact on climate change; and safeguard water resources

4. PROGRESS

- 4.1 In accordance with the above guidance, a list of policies, proposed to be either saved or discarded has been prepared and is detailed in the attached appendix.
- 4.2 Members will note that it is proposed to retain the majority of policies. This is partly due to the likely timescales for the production of the Core Strategy and Generic Development Control Policies, being unlikely to be adopted until 2009/2010
- 4.3 It is proposed to delete 28 policies out of a total of 170 both District wide and Area policies (16%). The reasons for proposed deletion range from the policy being no longer relevant; to it not being used; in the case of specific site allocations, the site is now developed; or it merely repeats, or does not comply with National Policy.
- 4.4 There has been close collaboration between officers including policy planners and Development control officers in the preparation of this list to ensure policies which are still of use are retained.
- 4.5 Informal advice of the GOWM has also been sought on the approach adopted but is currently awaited and Members will be verbally updated at your meeting regarding this issue.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 Local Planning Authorities need to submit a list of saved policies to Government Offices by 1 April 2007.

5.2 GOWM will assess requests and inform us of the outcome by 27th September 2007. The Secretary of State may make amendments to the proposed list and may extend a policy which has not been in a list of policies the LPA wishes to save if, for example, the policy is consistent with PPS12 and the extension of the policy is necessary in order to secure the delivery of national planning policy.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The attached appendix lists those Local Plan policies which it is considered should either be saved or be deleted. This is an interim measure in the transition from the old system of local plans/structure plans and Unitary Development Plans, until the new Local Development Framework can be fully adopted. Only those policies which have become out of date, not used, repetitive or not in conformity with National Policy have been suggested for deletion. It is therefore proposed to retain approximately 80% of existing policies, which it is anticipated will provide sufficient degree of continuity and certainty over this temporary change- over period.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 It is intended to issue amendments to existing copies held in stock of the Bromsgrove District Local Plan and the Proposals Map. It is not intended to print a new Local Plan document or Proposals Map, as it is considered that this would be both confusing to members of the public and financially unviable, especially in view of its temporary nature. These documents will eventually be replaced by the new Local Development Framework documents such as the Core Strategy DPD.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None

Contact Officer:

Name: Rosemary Williams
Email: r.williams@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: 01527 881316

Name: Jayne Pickering
Head of Financial Services
E Mail: j.pickering@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: 01527 88 1204