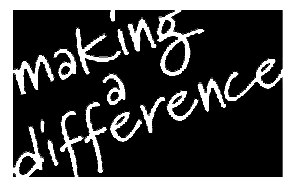


Executive Committee

Monday 10th January
2011
7.05 pm (or at the
adjournment of the
meeting of the Council)

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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- Automatic right to inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect minutes of the Council and its Committees (or summaries of business undertaken in private) for up to six years following a meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect lists of background papers used in the preparation of public reports.
- Access, upon request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
- Access to a public register stating the names and addresses and electoral areas of all Councillors with details of the membership of all Committees etc.
- A reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports relating to items to be considered in public must be made available to the public attending meetings of the Council and its Committees etc.
- Access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned.
- Access to a summary of the rights of the public to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees etc. and to inspect and copy documents.
- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines “Key Decisions” unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the Executive Committee are Key Decisions.
- (Copies of Agenda Lists are published in advance of the meetings on the Council’s Website:
www.redditchbc.gov.uk

**If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact
Ivor Westmore
Committee Support Services**

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: 01527 64252 (Extn. 3269) Fax: (01527) 65216
e.mail: ivor.westmore@redditchbc.gov.uk Minicom: 595528**

Welcome to today's meeting.

Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Committee Support Officer who gives advice on the proper conduct of the meeting and ensures that the debate and the decisions are properly recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Council Officers. The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

Running Order

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

Refreshments : tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings - please serve yourself.

Decisions

Decisions at the meeting will be taken by the **Councillors** who are the democratically elected representatives. They are advised by **Officers** who are paid professionals and do not have a vote.

Members of the Public

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings involving Licence or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Committee Support Officer.

Special Arrangements

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Committee Support Officer.

Infra-red devices for the hearing impaired are available on request at the meeting. Other facilities may require prior arrangement.

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Support Officer (see foot of page opposite).

Fire/ Emergency instructions

If the alarm is sounded, please leave the building by the nearest available exit – these are clearly indicated within all the Committee Rooms.

If you discover a fire, inform a member of staff or operate the nearest alarm call point (wall mounted red rectangular box). In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately following the fire exit signs. Officers have been appointed with responsibility to ensure that all visitors are escorted from the building.

Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do Not use lifts.

Do Not re-enter the building until told to do so.

The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.

Declaration of Interests: Guidance for Councillors

DO I HAVE A "PERSONAL INTEREST" ?

- Where the item relates or is likely to affect your **registered interests** (what you have declared on the formal Register of Interests)

OR

- Where a decision in relation to the item might reasonably be regarded as affecting **your own** well-being or financial position, or that of your **family**, or your **close associates** more than most other people affected by the issue,

you have a personal interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare the existence, and nature, of your interest and stay**

- The declaration must relate to specific business being decided - a general scattergun approach is not needed
- **Exception** - where interest arises only because of your membership of another **public body**, there is no need to declare unless you **speak** on the matter.
- You **can vote** on the matter.

IS IT A "PREJUDICIAL INTEREST" ?

In general only if:-

- It is a personal interest **and**
- The item affects your **financial position** (or conveys other benefits), or the position of your **family, close associates** or bodies through which you have a **registered interest** (or relates to the exercise of **regulatory functions** in relation to these groups)

and

- A member of public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably believe the interest was likely to **prejudice** your judgement of the public interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare and Withdraw**

BUT you may make representations to the meeting before withdrawing, **if** the public have similar rights (such as the right to speak at Planning Committee).



Executive

Committee

10th January 2011

7.05 pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Carole Gandy (Chair)	Malcolm Hall
	Michael Braley (Vice-Chair)	Gay Hopkins
	Juliet Brunner	Jinny Pearce
	Greg Chance	Debbie Taylor
	Brandon Clayton	

1. Apologies	To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend this meeting.
2. Declarations of Interest	To invite Councillors to declare any interests they may have in items on the agenda.
3. Leader's Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To give notice of any items for future meetings or for the Forward Plan, including any scheduled for this meeting, but now carried forward or deleted; and 2. any other relevant announcements. <p>(Oral report)</p>
4. Bromsgrove and Redditch Joint Core Strategy - Consultation Responses (Pages 1 - 12) Head of Planning and Regeneration	<p>To seek endorsement of the responses to the joint consultation.</p> <p>(Report attached – Appendices available via the Council's website and in Group Rooms)</p> <p>(All Wards)</p>
5. Draft Core Strategy (Pages 13 - 22) Head of Planning and Regeneration	<p>To seek endorsement of the Draft Core Strategy for the purposes of public consultation.</p> <p>(Report attached – Appendices available via the Council's website and in Group Rooms)</p> <p>(All Wards)</p>

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<p>6. Local Development Scheme - Update</p> <p>(Pages 23 - 32)</p> <p>Head of Planning and Regeneration</p>	<p>To seek Members agreement on a revised Core Strategy work timetable and to seek approval to abandon production of the Site Allocations Development Plan document.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(All Wards)</p>
<p>7. Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy and Worcestershire Local Transport Plan No 3 - Responses</p> <p>(Pages 33 - 52)</p> <p>Head of Planning and Regeneration</p>	<p>To consider Redditch Borough Council's response to the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy and the Worcestershire Local Transport Plan No 3.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(All Wards)</p>
<p>8. Job Evaluation and Terms and Conditions</p> <p>Head of Finance and Resources</p>	<p>To consider a report on the progress of Job Evaluation and harmonisation of Terms and Conditions.</p> <p>(Report to follow)</p> <p>(No Direct Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>9. Exclusion of the Public</p>	<p>Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, to consider excluding the public from the meeting in relation to any items of business on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged it may be necessary to move the following resolution:</p> <p>“that, under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter(s) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs (to be specified) of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.”</p>

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
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**OUTCOME OF BROMSGROVE AND REDDITCH SPECIAL CONSULTATION
ON REDDITCH EXPANSION**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jinny Pearce, Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development & Transport
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning & Regeneration
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report contains details of the outcome of the Bromsgrove and Redditch Special Consultation on Redditch Expansion. Public consultation was conducted from 8th February 2010 until 22nd March 2010. The representations received have been summarised, an Officer response provided and details of any action arising following receipt of the representation (these can be viewed at Appendix A).
- 1.2 The consultation document presented options for development within Redditch Borough's boundaries and the options for development in Bromsgrove District, adjacent to Redditch Borough to meet Redditch's growth needs up to 2026. These options represented a joint response to the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) Phase Two Report of the Panel.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is asked to RESOLVE that the outcome of the Bromsgrove and Redditch Special Consultation on Redditch Expansion (Appendix A) be approved.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This period of public consultation was carried out in response to the recommendations of the panel following the Examination in Public in to the Phase Two Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS). The WMRSS provided the framework and targets for the two separate Core Strategies being produced by Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council. The Panel recommended that 7000 dwellings be delivered to meet Redditch's growth needs up to 2026. Around 4000 of these dwellings were to be delivered within Redditch Borough and around 3000 in Bromsgrove District, adjacent to the Redditch boundary.

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Additionally, the employment targets set for Redditch's long-term requirements were 68 hectares. The Panel Report specified that 37 hectares would be provided cross-boundary, of which at least 12 hectares would be provided within Stratford-on-Avon District west of the A435.

- 3.2 These targets required both Councils to consult on development options that had not previously been consulted on. Therefore a period of consultation was needed to consider where the 7000 dwellings and other development would be best located. The WMRSS Panel Report concluded that 4000 dwellings needed to be provided within the Redditch boundary; therefore it was necessary to reconsider, and consult on, potential development areas that were previously not considered for development. The development options put forward within Redditch concentrated on meeting the 4000 dwellings required and identifying the location of employment land within the Borough.
- 3.3 The WMRSS Panel Report stated that the remaining 3000 dwellings needed to meet Redditch's growth needs up to 2026 should be located in Bromsgrove District adjacent to the Redditch boundary. The WMRSS Panel Report stated at paragraph 8.84: "*we must conclude that provision should be made for around 3000 dwellings for Redditch in Bromsgrove District....the choice of locality around the boundary of Redditch should be locally determined whether at or adjacent to Webheath/Foxlydiate or Brockhill ADRs or in the Bordesley park area or in some combination of these possibilities or elsewhere*". This local determination meant that consultation was required on the possible locations for this development. The options for Redditch-related development in Bromsgrove considered land for both housing and employment.
- 3.4 In terms of progress towards the production of both Authorities' Core Strategies, Bromsgrove District Council have completed the Issues and Options stage of the Core Strategy (2005 and 2007) and consulted on a Draft Core Strategy (2008-2009). Redditch Borough Council have consulted on the Issues and Options (June 2008) and the Preferred Draft Core Strategy (2008 – 2009). Therefore, in effect, both Authorities are at the same stage in the production of their respective Core Strategies.
- 3.5 Subsequently, the Bromsgrove and Redditch Special Consultation on Redditch Expansion (February – March 2010) included the 'Revised Development Strategy for the Emerging Core Strategy Consultation Paper' and the Sustainability Appraisal Refresh.

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- 3.6 On 27th May 2010 the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, wrote to Council leaders highlighting the Coalition Government's commitment to rapidly abolish Regional Strategies and return decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils. On 6th July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) under s79(6) of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. Prior to this, the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) formed part of the statutory development plan for Redditch Borough, the revocation meant that the WMRSS did not form part of the development plan. However, following a judicial review the decision to revoke RSSs was found to be unlawful; this ruling re-instates the WMRSS as part of the statutory development plan. Following this judgment, the Chief Planner at the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) wrote to all Local Authorities stating that the Government still intended to abolish RSSs and that material consideration should be given to this. A further legal challenge has now been launched seeking a declaration from the Court that the government's stated intention to revoke RSSs is not a material consideration for the purposes of making planning decisions. The claim has been expedited with the effect that both the government's statement and the letter from CLG is stayed until further notice. Therefore, at the time of writing this report the WMRSS is part of the development plan and the Government's intention to abolish RSSs is **not** a material consideration.
- 3.7 At the time Officers were working on the 'Officer Response' and 'Actions' (see Appendix A) to the representations received during the consultation, the WMRSS was revoked. The Officer responses therefore reflect this. Legal proceedings regarding the status of RSSs are ongoing.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The following paragraphs detail the key issues that arose from the representations received during the consultation period. The key issues are those issues which are important points of consideration, raised by a number of respondents.
- 4.2 Respondents were concerned over the loss of the Green Belt for two reasons: it would be a loss of buffer between both Redditch and Bromsgrove and Redditch and Birmingham, and there would be an increased risk of coalescence of both Redditch and Mappleborough Green and Redditch and Bordesley. The Officer response states that the delivery of cross-boundary growth is uncertain given the revocation of the RSS and

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therefore further consultation will be conducted on the level of development appropriate for the Borough and District and the strategic locations for this. Officers also note that Bordesley is not a defined settlement and therefore coalescence of settlements in this location is not a relevant consideration.

- 4.2 A number of respondents were concerned whether infrastructure would be provided alongside any new housing development. Respondents made it clear that, amongst other things, employment and community facilities would be necessary. Officers provide the response that all necessary infrastructure would need to be in place to enable development, and an Infrastructure Delivery Plan was being progressed by both Authorities.
- 4.4 There were a significant amount of comments regarding flooding. Many respondents had concerns that new development would make flooding worse and that no mitigation measures would be put in place. Respondents also considered that if an area was likely to flood then this would prevent any development being located there. Officers advise that a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Level 1 had been completed and that a Level 2 SFRA was being completed. This study will consider the flood risk posed to development sites and detail the mitigation measures necessary. Officers also stated that flooding issues are an important consideration but may not necessarily prohibit development.
- 4.5 Respondents were concerned that new development would lead to the loss of wildlife and habitats. Officers state that an analysis of available ecological information would be carried out which will identify any constraints to development. A number of the sites that have specific environmental issues will also require an ecological assessment at the Planning Application stage.
- 4.6 Many respondents questioned the amount of dwellings that had been allocated to Redditch Borough as a development target up to 2026. Many respondents stated that 7000 dwellings was too high. A number of respondents particularly questioned whether this target was appropriate when considering the implications of the recession and the economic downturn. Officers state that the housing figures were set by the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy and the target for Redditch was based on projected need and takes account of past trends and population projections. Officers also note that the plan period runs up to 2026, therefore this takes into account peaks and troughs in the market. Officers state that the Councils would be undertaking further work to assess relevant factors/constraints before determining which site or sites should be developed. Officers advise that in light of the revocation of the RSS further

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consultation will be conducted on the level of development appropriate for the Borough and District and the strategic locations for this. As stated in paragraph 3.6 above, the WMRSS has now been reinstated as part of the statutory development plan. However, the government has also signalled its intention to radically reform the planning system and introduce new national planning policy through the forthcoming Decentralisation and Localism Bill, which is likely to require further consultation on the appropriate level of development for the Borough.

- 4.7 Respondents presented alternative options for the location of new development; these include Studley, Beoley, Astwood Bank, Feckenham or east into Stratford-On-Avon District and the alternative option of a combination of the proposed cross-boundary strategic locations. In terms of the alternative options that were presented, Officers have established the specific reasons why these locations are not suitable for further development: these explanations can be seen in the Redditch background document to the consultation the 'Revised Development Strategy for the Emerging Core Strategy Consultation Paper' and the Sustainability Appraisal Refresh.
- 4.8 Topography was commented upon as an area of concern. Respondents considered that building in an area with steep topography would increase flooding; they were also concerned that areas with steep topography would increase the visibility of the development. Officers respond by stating that topography would be carefully considered together with other factors but may not necessarily prohibit development.
- 4.9 There was both support and objection to the development of the three Areas of Development Restraint (ADRs) in Redditch (known as A435, Brockhill and the Webheath), as well as the three strategic locations identified in Bromsgrove District for potential cross-boundary development. The following paragraphs are a very brief summary of the concerns expressed for each of the potential development areas. Many of the objections received in relation to strategic locations were unsubstantiated; however those arguments which are duly made are being investigated further.
- 4.10 A435 ADR
The main issues are: possibility of conflict between industrial and residential uses; wildlife/protected species; flood risk; infrastructure upgrades for water supply and waste water; remote from town centre; not well integrated with existing residential neighbourhoods; lacks the scale to create balanced local communities; coalescence with Mappleborough Green and; development may lead to traffic problems on the A435.

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4.11 Brockhill ADR/ Brockhill Green Belt and Land west of A441

The main issues were: potential presence of mineral deposits; may be potential for designation as SSSI; lack of existing amenities; flooding; adverse traffic implications; adverse impact on biodiversity/wildlife; adverse impact on Brockhill Woods; infrastructure upgrade required for water supply and waste water; topography; reduction of Green Belt buffer between Redditch and Birmingham and; encouraging migration from Birmingham.

4.12 Webheath ADR. The key concerns that have been expressed relating to the Webheath ADR include: the implications of development on the local road network; the lack of local services; the lack of local employment opportunities; the need to pump sewerage due to topography; flooding issues surrounding the site and; concern over the implications of development on wildlife located on the site. Respondents also requested that the findings of the White Young Green Report, which recommended that the three ADRs should be changed to Green Belt, be implemented.

4.13 Foxlydiat Green Belt and Area Adjacent to A448

The main issues raised for this area concerned: the Green Belt; coalescence with other settlements; unnatural expansion of town; topography; sewerage issues requiring pumping "over the ridge"; adverse impact on setting of Hewell Historic Park; western half of the area is classified as being of moderate importance for biodiversity and the eastern part is low to moderate; further away than other options from town centre, employment opportunities, railway station and other amenities; major infrastructure improvements would be required to transport system; poorly served by public transport; Foxlydiat Wood Local Nature Reserve, Foxlydiat and Pitcheroak Woods Special Wildlife Site, Hewell Park Lake Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); loss of working farms; poor potential for integration with the town; greater likely dependence on car-borne travel; no defensible green belt boundary and; could encourage ribbon development along A448.

4.14 Land East of A441

The main issues highlighted were: inadequate infrastructure; reduction of Green Belt buffer between Redditch and Birmingham; encourage in-migration from Birmingham; traffic congestion; flooding; topography; adverse impact on small villages and communities including coalescence with Bordesley; adverse impact on biodiversity/wildlife and; loss of amenity space.

4.15 Ravensbank ADR

Main concern is with the Special Wildlife Site in this area.

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4.16 Winyates Green Triangle

Although the Winyates Green Triangle site was not presented as part of this consultation, Stratford on Avon District Council was consulting on their Draft Core Strategy at the same time, which did include the site. A small number of representations were submitted to RBC regarding this site during the consultation period. These representations were copied to Stratford on Avon District Council Officers for their consideration but those that were received by RBC have been summarised at the end of Appendix A for information. Since Winyates Green Triangle was identified for potential development, a Transport Assessment and Ecological Assessment have been carried out which indicate that the cost of providing access and the ecological constraints on the site are likely to mean the delivery of development on the site is unviable.

4.17 Officers have provided responses to the issues mentioned above at 4.10 - 4.15 in Appendix A, however the responses do carry the caveat that the delivery of cross-boundary development and development on other sites within Redditch is uncertain due to the proposed abolition of the RSS and the emerging changes to the national planning system.

4.18 Many of the issues raised during the consultation period are non-planning considerations and could not be controlled by the policies within a Core Strategy. These issues included; property values, covenants, compensation during construction, council tax, the timing of the consultations and the responsibility of the provision of council services.

4.19 Many comments received during consultation recommended that empty properties are used and vacant land should be utilised for housing and employment ahead of the use of ADR land or Green Belt land. Officers state that the Evidence Base studies that have been conducted ensure that all potential sites for development in Redditch Borough have been identified.

4.20 Concerns were raised about the lack of employment opportunities in the town and that people may commute into Birmingham for work. Officers state that it is necessary to have employment land targets to ensure a balance between housing and employment. The employment targets allocated to Redditch were set by the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy and based on the projected need, however these may be revised in light of the revocation of the RSS. There is a need to identify land for a variety of employment uses. Officers also state that it is intended that new development will comprise sustainable mixed use communities enabling people to live and work locally rather than commuting to Birmingham.

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- 4.21 It was considered that many respondents misunderstood the funding procedures of new development and many believed that the Council would pay for all future development. It is clarified by Officers that the cost of development would be borne by the developer and this also applies to the infrastructure that is required to enable the development to proceed.
- 4.22 Representations to the consultation period were received from key statutory consultees including English Heritage, Environment Agency, Government Office for the West Midlands, Natural England, Worcestershire County Council and Parish Councils. English Heritage, Natural England, Government Office for the West Midlands and Worcestershire County Council generally supported the consultation and had no significant issues with the sites put forward. The Environment Agency, although generally in support of the consultation, raised a range of concerns which they recommend were given further consideration prior to final site selection. A number of parish councils expressed their concerns over the levels and proposed location of development. The Officer response to these can be viewed at appendix A. Representations were also received from developers and landowners with an interest in putting forward cross-boundary sites for development.
- 4.23 Many representations received on the options for cross-boundary development and some development sites within Redditch (including some ADR land) made objections to the option that was located closest to the respondent: the respondent generally supported the option that was located furthest away. Officers state that a decision on development locations will be based on technical evidence and justified arguments presented through the consultation period.
- 4.24 The next stage for the production of the Core Strategy is to publish a revised Draft Core Strategy for public consultation; this is the subject of a separate report at the executive committee meeting.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To progress to the next stage of the Core Strategy (Publication and Submission to the Secretary of State), full compliance with Planning Policy Statement 12 'Local Spatial Planning' is required, to demonstrate deliverability. To achieve this, additional evidence base work will be necessary in light of changes to the economic circumstances and the likely changes to the planning system, which will have budget implications. This will be the subject of future committee reports.

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6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Borough Council is required to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF) under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Core Strategy forms an integral part of the LDF.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Redditch Borough's LDF forms part of the development plan for the area. The Core Strategy is the main Development Plan Document within the LDF.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

The Outcome of the Bromsgrove and Redditch Special Consultation contributes towards the production of both Authorities' Core Strategies. The policies in the Redditch Core Strategy will contribute to achieving the following Council Objectives:

- EC3: Improving Economic Development
- EC4: To develop the Town Centre and Church Hill District Centre
- EC5: To provide new leisure facilities across the town enhancing residents' opportunities to access quality sporting facilities
- EC7: To improve health and well being across the Borough through leisure and arts
- S1: To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- S4: Deliver agreed improvements to the Town Centre in terms of environmental quality and the night-time economy
- CG1: Deliver a cleaner, greener Borough and improve the quality of green spaces
- CG5: Improve energy efficiency

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Progress on the Core Strategy is necessary to ensure the Core Strategy can be adopted in the anticipated timescale. If the Core Strategy is not progressed and adopted there is a risk the council will not have an up to date development plan with which to determine planning applications.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

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None identified.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

An Equalities Impact Assessment is carried out in advance of the next stage of Core Strategy consultation.

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

None identified.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

National planning policy has a requirement to address adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change. National Planning Policy also has a requirement to ensure that implications from development on biodiversity are minimised and mitigated against. The Core Strategy will seek to implement this at a local level.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

The Redditch Borough Core Strategy will seek to ensure that community safety is maximised by having a policy which ensures new development in Redditch is designed to high standards.

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

A health impact assessment is to be completed before publication and submission of the Core Strategy.

18. LESSONS LEARNT

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Monitoring forms were issued with the consultation material in order to gather data on who was responding to the consultation. From this monitoring we can identify that there was very limited response from those under 35 years of age and from ethnic minorities. Therefore, future consultations will aim to target groups that have previously had limited involvement in the Core Strategy in order to achieve a comprehensive consultation.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A number of 'drop-in' sessions and exhibitions were conducted to allow consultees to talk directly with a Planning Officer from either Bromsgrove District Council or Redditch Borough Council. Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils have dedicated webpages with up-to-date information detailing the consultation opportunities. A newspaper advert and press release were placed in The Standard and The Advertiser. The item went to each Redditch Neighbourhood Group as well as Redditch Borough Council's Community Forum and Bromsgrove's equalities and diversity forum. Letters and emails were sent to people on both the Bromsgrove and Redditch consultation database. Furthermore, in some hard-to reach locations flyers were hand delivered to individual properties. Publicity material was made available in various locations such as Redditch Town Hall, Bromsgrove Council House and Customer Service Centre and local libraries.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes - PAP
Chief Executive	Yes - CMT
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes - CMT
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	Yes - CMT
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes - CMT
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes - CMT
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	Yes - CMT
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes - CMT
Corporate Procurement Team	No

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21. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards.

22. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Outcome of Bromsgrove and Redditch Special Consultation on Redditch Expansion.

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Bromsgrove and Redditch Core Strategies – Special consultation on Redditch expansion.

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Report of the Panel September 2009

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Emma Baker (Acting Development Plans Manager)

E Mail: emma.baker@redditchbc.gov.uk

Tel: 3034

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
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**REVISED PREFERRED DRAFT CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
DOCUMENT CONSULTATION**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jinny Pearce, Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development & Transport
Relevant Manager	Emma Baker, Acting Development Plans Manager
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the Revised Preferred Draft Core Strategy (PDCS) (Appendix A) and Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix B) for the purposes of public consultation. The public consultation would be held from 21st January 2011 for six weeks.
- 1.2 The Preferred Draft Core Strategy has been revised following two periods of public consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The committee is asked to RECOMMEND that the Revised Preferred Draft Core Strategy (Appendix A) be approved for the purposes of public consultation;**
- 2.2 **The committee is asked to RECOMMEND that the Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix B) for the Preferred Draft Core Strategy be approved for the purposes of public consultation;**
- 2.3 **The committee is asked to RECOMMEND that a consultation period be held between from 21st January 2011 for six weeks;**
- 2.4 **The committee is asked to RECOMMEND that authority be delegated to the Acting Development Plans Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Leader of the Council, to make any minor amendments to the Revised Preferred Draft Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal prior to the consultation period commencing on 21st January 2011.**

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3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Development Framework is a folder of documents that aims to deliver the spatial portrait for the administrative area: it is made up of Local Development Documents. The Core Strategy is the principal Development Document of the LDF. The purpose of a Core Strategy DPD is to outline the vision, objectives and key policies that will guide Redditch Borough's development up until 2026. The Core Strategy will reflect national planning policy and reflect local information about the matters that are important for the Borough.
- 3.2 The Core Strategy has been the subject of several drafts and periods of formal public consultation:
- a) The Issues and Options Document highlighted the matters relevant to Redditch Borough (Issues) and the ways in which these issues could be combated through the application of planning policy (Options). The Issues and Options document was placed on deposit for public consultation between the 9th May and the 20th June 2008. During this period, interested parties were asked to submit comments via a questionnaire.
 - b) The Preferred Draft Core Strategy (PDCS) was the first draft version of the Borough Council's forthcoming Core Strategy Development Plan Document. Consultation on the PDCS was undertaken from 31st October 2008 to 8th May 2009.
 - c) During February and March 2010 a special consultation was held jointly between Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Council on the options for Redditch-related cross-boundary growth, based on the requirements in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Panel Report. The outcome of this consultation is the subject of a separate report to this committee.
- 3.3 On 27th May 2010 the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, wrote to Council leaders highlighting the Coalition Government's commitment to rapidly abolish Regional Strategies and return decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils. On 6th July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) under s79(6) of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. Prior to this, the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) formed part of the statutory development plan for Redditch Borough, the revocation meant

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that the WMRSS did not form part of the development plan. However, following a judicial review the decision to revoke RSSs was found to be unlawful; this ruling re-instates the WMRSS as part of the statutory development plan. Following this judgment, the Chief Planner at the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) wrote to all Local Authorities stating that the Government still intended to abolish RSSs and that material consideration should be given to this. A further legal challenge has now been launched seeking a declaration from the Court that the government's stated intention to revoke RSSs is not a material consideration for the purposes of making planning decisions. The claim has been expedited with the effect that both the government's statement and the letter from CLG is stayed until further notice. Therefore, at the time of writing this report the WMRSS is part of the development plan and the Government's intention to abolish RSSs is **not** a material consideration.

- 3.4 The WMRSS provided the framework for the Core Strategy and set housing, employment and other development targets for the Borough up to 2026. The WMRSS Phase Two Revision Panel Report for the Examination in Public recommended that 7000 dwellings are delivered to meet Redditch's growth needs up to 2026. Around 4000 of these dwellings were to be delivered within Redditch Borough and around 3000 in Bromsgrove District, adjacent to the Redditch boundary. The employment targets for Redditch's long-term requirements were 68 hectares. The Panel Report specified that 37 hectares would be provided cross-boundary, of which at least 12 hectares would be provided within Stratford-on-Avon District west of the A435.
- 3.5 The Core Strategy makes several references to the WMRSS including, in some cases, reference to figures within it. The evidence underpinning much of the WMRSS is not currently disputed and the Revised PDCS largely reflects the January 2008 adopted WMRSS and the emerging Phase Two Revision. The loss and then return of the RSS with development plan status therefore has little effect on the Redditch Borough Council Core Strategy because all content is underpinned by a justified and effective evidence base.
- 3.6 The joint consultation referred to in paragraph 3.2 above presented three broad options for Redditch-related growth in Bromsgrove District. In light of the revocation of RSS and emerging changes to the national planning system detailed above, the context for cross-boundary development has changed and this is reflected in the Revised PDCS.

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4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Revised PDCS is separated into seven strategy areas which are detailed below. Following consultation on the Preferred Draft Core Strategy (31st October 2008 to 8th May 2009) GOWM and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) provided advice on how the document could be revised to ensure the Core Strategy is found 'sound' at examination. The PDCS was organised according to the themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy, however advice from GOWM and PINS suggested that the Core Strategy should be focussed on key priorities for the Borough. The Revised PDCS is therefore organised into strategy areas that reflect key priorities.
- 4.2 Creating and sustaining a green environment
This strategy area seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment and rural area of Redditch Borough. In order to address this broad issue this section contains policies covering the following topics; Flood risk and water management, Natural Environment, Climate Change, Sustainable Travel and Accessibility and Green Infrastructure. This reflects the Council's corporate priority to be 'Greener'.
- 4.3 Sustainable places to live which meet all our needs
This strategy area reflects Redditch Borough Council role, as Local Planning Authority to ensure the efficient and sustainable release of land for development, which this strategy area aims to achieve. Dwellings should be provided at the correct locations to ensure that the most deliverable and sustainable areas of the Borough are developed first. Redditch need to ensure that pressure for development on greenfield land is kept to a minimum, and that those sites released first benefit from, and maximise the use of, existing and planned infrastructure. Sufficient dwellings should to be provided to ensure that everyone has access to a home that meets their needs. The provision of an appropriate level of affordable housing delivery across all types and tenures is critical to meeting the needs of all our residents.
- 4.4 Creating a borough where businesses can thrive
This strategy area recognises that there is a need to diversify the economic base of Redditch's economy to ensure we meet economic aspirations, whilst also remaining flexible in our approach and supporting existing businesses. This strategy area seeks to identify potential ways of diversifying the economy without being overly restrictive given the nature of the economy changing at a faster pace than planning policies. The strategy also seeks to remain flexible and not restrict growth of existing business sectors which are not looking to diversify from a traditional industry.

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The importance of the rural economy is acknowledged but the strategy also considers the impact economic development can have on the rural area and consequently some criteria are set out which aim to guide certain types of economic development in rural area. This reflects the priority to be an 'enterprising' Borough.

4.5 Improving the vitality and viability of Redditch Town Centre and District Centre

Redditch Town Centre plays an important role in supporting local economic growth, encouraging investment and providing a range of services and facilities for the population of Redditch and the wider area. Existing retail areas lie predominantly within the Town Centre and District Centres. Within the Town Centre, retail is the predominant land use, but the Centre also fulfils a commercial and administrative role and includes leisure activities. The policies within this strategy aim to protect and strengthen the retail role of Redditch Town Centre and to encourage a wider range of services and facilities including employment, leisure, entertainment and housing. The strategy also focuses on regeneration including a number of strategic sites which help achieve the retail vision and objectives. The quality and attractiveness of Redditch Town Centre relies upon a number of additional elements including a clean, secure and attractive environment designed for pedestrian use; convenient and well managed traffic access; parking close to the Centre; traditional activities such as markets; good access for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. Town centre regeneration is a priority for the Council.

4.6 Protecting and enhancing Redditch's historic environment

This strategy area recognises the importance of both designated and non-designated historic assets in the Borough. In particular, the process for identifying and dealing with local buildings of historic interest is set out in policy. The conservation and enhancement of the Borough's wider historic environment is also a focus of this strategy area.

4.7 Creating safe and attractive places to live and work

Crime and the fear of crime can have a detrimental effect on the quality of people's lives. A well planned environment can help fight crime and the fear of crime by using good design as a tool to help remove opportunities to commit criminal activities and making potential targets less attractive. Planning has a major role to play in crime prevention as it can be used proactively to create an environment that decreases the vulnerability of people and buildings. Good design improves the local environment, helps it to fit in with its surroundings and creates a distinctive sense of place. In Redditch Borough it is also important that residents and visitors feel safe.

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4.8 Promoting Redditch's community well-being

This strategy area makes provision for Leisure and Tourism facilities and Health facilities in the Borough. The redevelopment of the Abbey stadium has now received planning permission; however it is important to safeguard this location for future leisure and tourism use.

There is an important link between planning and health in terms of how places are planned and develop and that impacts on the health of communities who live in them. Consequently, the Borough of Redditch Core Strategy is considered to be an important document which can have an impact on health as the plan goes beyond matters of pure land use. This strategy area seeks to ensure facilities for health needs are provided in strategic locations – Town Centre, District Centres and the Alexandra Hospital, whilst acknowledging the need to take account of wider planning policies and material considerations. The relevant policy identifies a set of criteria that certain applications have to consider in order to ensure health benefits are taken into account in new developments.

This strategy area includes a policy to safeguard the Abbey Stadium Complex and the land adjacent to it for leisure and leisure-related uses. This includes the teardrop shaped area of land between the A441 and the crematorium/cemetery which is currently being marketed for sale by RBC for leisure and leisure-related uses, in accordance with the current Local Plan No.3 Policy. Following discussion at Planning Advisory Panel, Members requested that the revised Core Strategy policy requires that any development on the teardrop shaped area of land is sensitive to the adjacent crematorium/cemetery use.

4.9 Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

A Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix B) has been completed incorporating the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment. A SA has been completed at all stages of Core Strategy production and has informed the policies in both the PDCS and Revised PDCS. The Sustainability Appraisal will be a key piece of evidence, outlining the advantages and disadvantages of the various options. For the purposes of the Revised PDCS the SA has appraised any new options that arose from the PDCS consultation. How effectively different alternative options will progress, or move away from, the stated sustainability objectives, has been included in the Sustainability Appraisal with regards to each issue.

4.10 The government has signalled its intention to radically reform the planning system and introduce new national planning policy through the recently published Localism Bill. Officers consider that any implications arising from

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the Bill in relation to this draft of the Core Strategy can be dealt with through a questionnaire which will be published alongside the Revised PDCS.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To progress to the next stage of the Core Strategy (Publication and Submission to the Secretary of State), full compliance with Planning Policy Statement 12 'Local Spatial Planning' is required, to demonstrate deliverability. To achieve this, additional evidence base work will be necessary in light of changes to the economic circumstances and the likely changes to the planning system, which will have budget implications. This will be the subject of future committee reports.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Borough Council is required to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF) under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Core Strategy forms an integral part of the LDF.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Redditch Borough's LDF forms part of the development plan for the area. The Core Strategy is the main Development Plan Document within the LDF.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

The policies in the Core Strategy will contribute to achieving the following Council Objectives:

- EC3: Improving Economic Development
- EC4: To develop the Town Centre and Church Hill District Centre
- EC5: To provide new leisure facilities across the town enhancing residents' opportunities to access quality sporting facilities
- EC7: To improve health and well being across the Borough through leisure and arts
- S1: To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- S4: Deliver agreed improvements to the Town Centre in terms of environmental quality and the night-time economy
- CG1: Deliver a cleaner, greener Borough and improve the quality of green spaces
- CG5: Improve energy efficiency

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**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY
CONSIDERATIONS**

Progress on the Core Strategy is necessary to ensure the Core Strategy can be adopted in the anticipated timescale. If the Core Strategy is not progressed and adopted there is a risk the council will not have an up to date development plan with which to determine planning applications.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Equalities Impact Assessments have been completed for the Core Strategy and Town Centre Strategy (which underpins part of the Core Strategy). These assessments have highlighted no noticeable impacts on equalities groups, however, more information is needed to determine the effects. This will be achieved by further data gathering from monitoring forms sent out with consultation material. A further Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed at the next stage of the Core Strategy.

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET
MANAGEMENT**

None identified.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

National planning policy has a requirement to address adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change. National Planning Policy also has a requirement to ensure that implications from development on biodiversity are minimised and mitigated against. The Core Strategy will seek to implement this at a local level.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

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**16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF
CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

The Redditch Borough Core Strategy will seek to ensure that community safety is maximised by having a policy which ensures new development in Redditch is designed to high standards. The High Quality and Safe Design section of the Core Strategy aims to aid changing perceptions of crime and antisocial behaviour through practical measures identified in policy. The district centres in the New Town areas of Redditch have been identified as 'Strategic Sites' for redevelopment in order to improve crime and anti-social behaviour issues that are due, in part to the design of the District Centres.

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

A Health Impact Assessment will be completed for the Core Strategy. The purpose of which is to ensure that the policies in the Core Strategy, where possible, actively promote health gain for the local population, reduce health inequalities and do not actively damage health.

18. LESSONS LEARNT

Monitoring of previous consultations has identified that there was very limited response from those under 35 years of age and from ethnic minorities. Therefore, future consultations will aim to target groups that have previously had limited involvement in the Core Strategy in order to achieve a comprehensive consultation.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Consultation on the Core Strategy will be carried out in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes - PAP
Chief Executive	Yes - CMT
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes - CMT
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	Yes - CMT
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes - CMT

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Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes - CMT
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	Yes - CMT
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes - CMT
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All wards.

22. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Revised Preferred Draft Core Strategy
Appendix B - Sustainability Appraisal

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Borough of Redditch Preferred Draft Core Strategy 31st October 2008

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy January 2009

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Report of the Panel September 2009

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Emma Baker (Acting Development Plans Manager)
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Tel: ext 3034

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**CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN - DOCUMENT TIMETABLE AND
SITE ALLOCATIONS AND POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jinny Pearce, Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development & Transport
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning & Regeneration
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The purpose of this report is twofold: firstly to seek Members' agreement to a flexible timetable for the production of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) and secondly, to seek approval to temporarily abandon work on the Site Allocations and Policies (DPD) in order to focus resources on the Core Strategy DPD.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that

- 1) **work towards the Publication version of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document continue, but with flexibility in the timetable for production;**

and to RECOMMEND that

- 2) **work on the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document be abandoned temporarily.**

3. BACKGROUND**Core Strategy DPD**

- 3.1 The Core Strategy DPD will set out the Strategic Vision, Objectives and policies for Redditch until 2026. It will provide guidance on strategic issues such as the environment, sustainable development, strategic locations or allocations of land and climate change.
- 3.2 Production of the Core Strategy is ongoing and the current status of this document is the subject of a separate report to this committee.

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The existing timetable for the Core Strategy DPD as set out in the LDS is included at Appendix A.

- 3.3 The Government has signaled its intention to radically reform the planning system and introduce new national planning policy. This is likely to change the way that local planning policy is produced and the format and content of local plans. New national planning policy may include 'transitional arrangements' for documents that are already in production, such as the Core Strategy. Any new transitional arrangements may have an implication on the Core Strategy timetable. In light of the emerging changes to the national planning system it may be necessary to hold an additional period of consultation or to delay the date of Publication from that already set out in the LDS.
- 3.4 On 22nd July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the Government's intention in principle to abolish the remaining eight Government Offices for the Regions across England. Prior to this, Redditch Borough Council was required to submit proposed LDS's to the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) for approval. Since the Secretary of State's announcement, Officers have been advised by GOWM that they are no longer able to make decisions on LDS's and that the role of LDS under emerging new national planning policy is unknown until the Localism Bill is published (draft due in November 2010). Verbal advice from GOWM is that the current timescale for Core Strategy production should be advertised on the Council's website.

Site Allocations and Policies DPD

- 3.5 The purpose of the Site Allocations and Policies DPD is to allocate land for a range of uses to support the strategic spatial vision and objectives of the Council's Core Strategy. The DPD must be in conformity with the Core Strategy as it will demonstrate how the vision, objectives and spatial strategy will be implemented and delivered. It will include sites for development, for example housing and employment.
- 3.6 To date, preparation on the Site Allocations and Policies DPD has not progressed beyond the 'scoping' stage. The Scoping Report is the first stage in the Sustainability Appraisal process and sets the context and objectives, establishes the baseline and decides on the scope of the DPD. The current LDS timetables a period of public consultation on Issues and Alternative Options for the Site Allocations and Policies DPD for November 2010.

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However, in light of the revocation of the RSS and emerging changes to the planning system detailed above, Officers have considered it prudent to concentrate resources on the Core Strategy DPD as it is at a more advanced stage of production and is the principal DPD for the Borough.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The current Local Development Scheme timetable for the Core Strategy is shown at Appendix A. In order to take account of emerging changes to the national planning system (referred to in para 3.3-3.4 above) it may be necessary to hold an additional period of consultation before the Publication stage of the Core Strategy or to delay the Publication stage.
- 4.2 Members are therefore asked to allow flexibility in the timetable for Core Strategy production to enable the possibility of an additional consultation period. Any necessary changes from the timetable in LDS No.4 will be noted on the Council's website and Members will be kept informed through Planning Advisory Panel meetings.
- 4.3 It is proposed that work on the Site Allocations and Policies DPD is abandoned temporarily in order to focus resources on the Core Strategy DPD. The Core Strategy DPD is at a more advanced stage of production and is the principal DPD for the Borough. Changes to the national planning system may change the way local plans are produced and may change to the extent that DPDs of the nature required under the present legislation will no longer be the format of local planning policy. As the Site Allocations and Policies DPD has not progressed beyond the 'scoping' stage it is considered prudent to focus resources on the Core Strategy DPD and await further guidance from Government on the national planning system before progressing any other DPDs.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of holding an additional consultation period can be met within existing Development Plans budgets. The cost of any additional evidence required to support the Core Strategy may be requested through separate budget bids.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Borough Council is required to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF) under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Core Strategy forms an integral part of the LDF.

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7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Redditch Borough's LDF forms part of the development plan for the area. The Core Strategy is the main Development Plan Document within the LDF.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

The policies in the emerging Core Strategy will contribute to achieving the following Council Objectives:

- EC3: Improving Economic Development
- EC4: To develop the Town Centre and Church Hill District Centre
- EC5: To provide new leisure facilities across the town enhancing residents' opportunities to access quality sporting facilities
- EC7: To improve health and well being across the Borough through leisure and arts
- S1: To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- S4: Deliver agreed improvements to the Town Centre in terms of environmental quality and the night-time economy
- CG1: Deliver a cleaner, greener Borough and improve the quality of green spaces
- CG5: Improve energy efficiency

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Progress on the Core Strategy is necessary to ensure the Core Strategy can be adopted in the anticipated timescale. If the Core Strategy is not progressed and adopted there is a risk the council will not have an up to date development plan with which to determine planning applications.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the Core Strategy. These assessments have highlighted no noticeable impacts on equalities groups; however, more information is needed to determine the effects. This will be achieved by further data gathering from monitoring forms sent out with consultation material. A further Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed at the next stage of the Core Strategy.

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12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

None identified.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

National planning policy has a requirement to address adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change. National Planning Policy also has a requirement to ensure that implications from development on biodiversity are minimised and mitigated against. The Core Strategy will seek to implement this at a local level.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

The Redditch Borough Core Strategy will seek to ensure that community safety is maximised by having a policy which ensures new development in Redditch is designed to high standards. The Core Strategy aims to aid changing perceptions of crime and antisocial behaviour through practical measures identified in policy. The District Centres in the New Town areas of Redditch have been identified as 'Strategic Sites' for redevelopment in order to improve crime and anti-social behaviour issues that are due, in part to the design of the District Centres.

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

A Health Impact Assessment will be completed for the Core Strategy. The purpose of which is to ensure that the policies in the Core Strategy, where possible, actively promote health gain for the local population, reduce health inequalities and do not actively damage health.

18. LESSONS LEARNT

None. This is a new issue.

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19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Consultation on the Core Strategy will be carried out in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes - PAP
Chief Executive	Yes - CMT
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes - CMT
Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Director – Leisure, Environment and Community Services	Yes - CMT
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes - CMT
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes - CMT
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	Yes - CMT
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes - CMT
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards.

22. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Core Strategy Project Plan

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Borough of Redditch Local Development Scheme No. 4
<http://redditch.whub.org.uk/cms/pdf/LDS%20No4.pdf>

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Emma Baker (Acting Development Plans Manager)
E Mail: emma.baker@redditchbc.gov.uk
Tel: ext 3034

1. Core Strategy Development Plan Document

Role and Content	Aligned with the Councils Sustainable Community Strategy, this DPD will set out the Strategic Vision, objectives and policies for Redditch up until 2026. The process of Sustainability Appraisal will be part of the decision making process of the Core Strategy. It will provide guidance on Strategic issues in the Borough such as the Environment, Sustainable Development, Strategic locations or allocations of land and climate change.	
Status	DPD	
Chain of Conformity	The DPD will be in conformity with the Sustainable Community Strategy and general conformity with the RSS and other relevant guidance.	
Geographical coverage	Borough-wide	
Relevant Local Area Agreement themes		
Relevant RBC Corporate Plan Priorities	Enterprising Community Safe Clean and Green	
Target Adoption Date	December 2012	
Timetable (Stage)	Date	Complete
<u>Regulation 25</u>		
Production stage	June 2007– April 2008	✓
Issues and alternative options consultation	May - June 2008	✓
Consultation on Preferred Draft Core Strategy ¹	October 2008 - May 2009	✓

¹ In June 2009 the Town and Country Planning Amendment Regulations came into force, which removed the need to undertake a Preferred Option stage in the Core Strategy production (previous Regulation 26). Under the transitional arrangements supplied by CLG, Redditch Borough have taken Route two. The current (amendment) requirement is to ensure

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Representations on Preferred Draft Core Strategy	June 2009	✓
Joint Consultation with Bromsgrove District Council on Revised Development Strategy (special consultation on Redditch Expansion) and growth options.	February – March 2010	
Consultation on Revised Preferred Draft Core Strategy (aligned with Bromsgrove District Council)	November 2010	
Representation on Revised Preferred Draft Core Strategy	December 2010	
<u>Regulation 27</u>		
Publication of proposed submission DPD (aligned with Bromsgrove District Council)	November 2011	
<u>Regulation 30</u>		
Submission to Secretary of State(aligned with Bromsgrove District Council)	February/ March 2012	
Pre – Examination Meeting	May 2012	
Examination Hearings Period	July 2012	
Inspectors Report	October 2012	
Adoption	December 2012	

that 'public participation in the preparation of a development plan document' is undertaken, in accordance with Regulation 25.

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Arrangements for Production	
Organisational Lead	Director of Environment and Planning
Political Management	Planning Advisory Panel, Executive Committee and Full Council. Joint Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council Planning Advisory Panel.
Resources Required	Can be managed by Development Plans Team within existing budgets.
External Community and Stakeholder Involvement	As per SCI
Post-Production	AMR to monitor and review DPD implementation.

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**WORCESTERSHIRE WASTE CORE STRATEGY AND WORCESTERSHIRE
LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN NO 3 – RESPONSES**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jinny Pearce, Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development & Transport
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning & Regeneration
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 Redditch Borough Council's Response to the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy is supportive of the content put forward in the Document and would encourage the location of waste management facilities in the Borough.
- 1.2 Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council's response to Worcestershire Local Transport Plan No.3 (LTP3) is supportive of the content put forward in the Document and raises a number of questions for Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to consider when developing the emerging draft plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that

the responses prepared to the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy and Worcestershire Local Transport Plan No. 3, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be endorsed.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy was initially submitted to The Planning Inspectorate in 2007, this submission was later withdrawn. In summer 2008 WCC consulted on a refreshed Issues and Options Document, following this an Emerging Preferred Options Consultation was undertaken in November 2009 – February 2010. This most recent stage of consultation is the First Draft Submission Consultation Document and has been subject to consultation from September to November 2010. It is intended that the Waste Core Strategy will be adopted in early 2012 by Worcestershire County Council.

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- 3.2 The first stage of the development of Worcestershire Local Transport Plan No.3 was to define Issues and Challenges, this consultation stage occurred between 2004 and 2009.

The second stage involved consultation with stakeholders and the public on the draft plan and ran between October – December 2010.

4. KEY ISSUES

The Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy

- a) In general terms Officers are fully supportive of the content put forward in the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy.
- b) Officers from Development Plans and Economic Development Team would encourage the location of waste management facilities in the Borough at any of the sites put forward in the document, as the sites put forward are all suitable for such uses and are currently designated as Primarily Employment Areas.
- c) The housing target for Redditch has not yet been finalised. The alterations to these targets may have implications for the Waste Core Strategy, in particular when projecting the need for future waste facilities in the County.
- d) Officers have stated they are happy to meet Worcestershire County Council at a later date to discuss the implications of revised housing targets on the need for waste management facilities following the publications of the Draft Core Strategy (anticipated January 2011).

Worcestershire Local Transport Plan No.3

- 4.1 In general terms Officers are fully supportive of the content put forward in the Worcestershire Local Transport Plan No.3.
- 4.2 In the response to the document Officers have raised a number of concerns which need to be addressed by the County Council through the emerging plan before it is adopted. Key issues that have been raised include:
 - i) The need to define the role of the emerging Local Enterprise Partnership in securing funding;

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- ii) How infrastructure needs will affect growth figures and a request that the Borough Council works with WCC to determine whether infrastructure requirements will limit growth;
- iii) Establishing the principle of opening the bus lanes to motorcycles and whether this can be implemented in Redditch so that the bus lanes are opened up to general traffic in limited circumstances if wider community benefits can be demonstrated. This has previously been opposed by Worcestershire County Council; and
- iv) When a clear Delivery Plan will be published to support the document, as this is essential to deliver the projects within the Local Transport Plan.

4.3 The major scheme being considered for inclusion within LTP3 for Redditch is the 'Redditch Town Centre Package'. This package is expected to include:

- 1) Junction improvements at key pinch points in Redditch;
- 2) Significant public realm enhancements in Redditch Town Centre to support the wider regeneration initiative;
- 3) Improvements to passenger transport interchange facilities (rail, bus and taxi) in the Town Centre;
- 4) A smarter choices programme, to promote enhanced transport choice in Bromsgrove (Officers anticipate this is a typing error and should state Redditch);
- 5) Promoting an enhanced rail service between Redditch and the West Midlands Conurbation;
- 6) Improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure across the urban area, including improvements to bus stops, footpaths and cycle ways;
- 7) Accessibility enhancements to the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, potentially including a high quality passenger transport interchange.

4.4 Officers are fully supportive of this package of measures and have detailed in the response a desire to work closely with Officers at WCC to ensure delivery of this package of measures through LTP3.

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4.5 The remaining response is structured under the 14 Policy areas of LTP3 (which can be seen at Appendix B).

4.6 The response to the Worcestershire Local Transport Plan has been produced jointly with Bromsgrove District Council; this is because Bromsgrove and Redditch have been considered jointly as part of the North East Worcestershire section within the area profile. It is also considered more efficient and cost effective to produce one joint response.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Waste Core Strategy and Local Transport Plan are produced by Worcestershire County Council. It is necessary for all policy produced as part of Redditch Borough Council's Local Development Framework to be in accordance with Policy produced by Worcestershire County Council. The final versions of the Waste Core Strategy and LTP3 will inform Policy development of the Local Development Framework and therefore it is essential to ensure that Redditch Borough Council feeds into the preparation of these documents.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

The Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy and Worcestershire Local Transport Plan No.3 seek to achieve the Council objectives of being enterprising, safe, clean and green. By being part of the Boroughs planning policy framework the Waste Core Strategy will seek to increase employment in the Borough within the waste sector and promote clean waste management, whilst the Local Transport Plan will promote public transport and move towards more sustainable methods of movement around the Borough.

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9. RISK MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

If the Borough Council's responses to the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy and Local Transport Plan are not endorsed the Borough Council will miss out on an opportunity to have formal input into the development of these documents. It is necessary for Redditch Borough Council's Local Development Framework to be in accordance with Policy produced by Worcestershire County Council and therefore to influence their content.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None Identified.

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

None Identified.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

Worcestershire Local Transport Plan No.3 seeks to ensure a model shift away from the private car to more sustainable modes of transport, this will result in reduced carbon emissions and therefore a reduction in the Boroughs contribution to climate change, The Plan also seeks a move towards environmentally friendly vehicles.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None Identified.

15. GOVERNANCE / PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None Identified.

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**16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF
CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

Worcestershire local Plan 3 contains a policy on Transport Safety, this policy seeks to enhance community safety in the Borough.

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

None Identified.

18. LESSONS LEARNT

None.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Both the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy and the Worcestershire Local Plan No.3 have been subject to consultation periods conducted by Worcestershire County Council.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes
Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Director – Leisure, Environment and Community Services	Yes
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	Yes

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21. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards.

22. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Redditch Borough Council's Response to the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy

Appendix 2 - Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Councils' response to Worcestershire Local Transport Plan No.3.

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy First Draft Submission.

Draft Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026.

Draft Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026 individual Policy Documents (13 separate documents).

24. KEY

LTP3 - Local Transport Plan No.3

WCC - Worcestershire County Council

AUTHOR OF REPORT *DST STANDARDISE*

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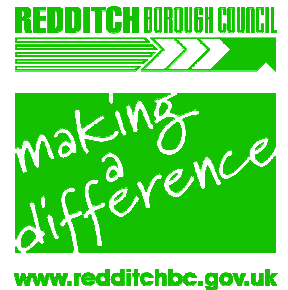
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Date: As postmark

Nick

Thank you for giving Redditch Borough Council the opportunity to submit comments on the First Draft Submission Consultation of the Waste Core Strategy.

As you are aware we submitted comments to the Waste Core Strategy on the 2nd November (which I have included below for information), I can confirm that these comments have now been retrospectively endorsed by Redditch Borough Councils Executive Committee and Full Council on the 10th January 2011.

In general terms we are fully supportive of the content put forward in the Document and would encourage the location of waste management facilities in the Borough at any of the sites put forward in the document.

As you will be aware with the Regional Spatial Strategies have been revoked it is now for local authorities to decide the most appropriate housing figure for their area. Page 17 appears to continue to put forward the figure stipulated in the emerging RSS however the housing figure for Redditch has not yet been decided. The alterations to these figures may have implications for the waste Core Strategy, in particular when projecting the need for future waste facilities in the County. We are happy to meet at a later date to discuss this if you would like once the Revised Preferred Draft Core Strategy is out to public consultation (Mid December).

We have discussed waste management facilities with the County Council previously and this will be reflected within the core strategy policy.

In terms of the contact details Ruth Bamford is now the Head of Planning and Regeneration not Acting Head of Planning so these can be updated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise Brockett', written in a cursive style.

Louise Brockett BSc (Hons) MA MRTPI
Planning Assistant, Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services Directorate

**Redditch Borough Councils and Bromsgrove District Councils response
to the Third Draft Worcestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP 3)****1.0 Draft Local Transport Plan (Main Document)**

- 1.1 Page 9 details the role of the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The Worcestershire LEP has now emerged as successful; it is considered that a focus should be on how the LEP can play a significant role in transport development to allow the economic development of the county. There should be clarity on whether previously the delivery of the Plan was reliant on funding levered in by the LEP or not and if not now the LEP has been approved there are additional opportunities to implement more schemes, if so this needs to be managed carefully. Bromsgrove and Redditch also form part of the Birmingham LEP, opportunities should be explored to improve transport infrastructure between North Worcestershire and Birmingham. Officers question the implications this may have on LTP3 and if flexibility has been built into the plan to accommodate any potential future infrastructure as a result of the Birmingham LEP.
- 1.2 The LEP is mentioned on page 10 as the main vehicle for engaging in the dialogue between the Worcestershire Economic Strategy and transport, how much of a role will the LEP play and who will manage the dialogue gap between the LEP. It is questioned whether the dialogue, in particular with regard to the role of the LEP will be equal between all Districts and Boroughs and how this communication will be managed.
- 1.3 LTP3 should have more regard to the Draft Worcestershire LEP, with references to the County priorities of delivering strategic employment sites and related infrastructure (services, highways, access utilities, etc.), which are needed to secure sustainable economic growth and a low carbon economy. Existing and new businesses require the right infrastructure with better access to the businesses themselves and their supply chains with improvements to the motorway network and the east to west links. LTP3 fails to recognise the relationship with travel and employment areas.
- 1.4 Local Authorities would like to work closely with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to determine what their infrastructure requirements are. If it is determined that growth figures are to be determined by local authorities a significant amount of work on how much influence infrastructure requirements will have on the growth figures will need to be completed. It would be helpful to determine whether infrastructure requirements will restrict the amount of growth put forward by the

District/Borough. Joint working would be helpful to determine this figure.

- 1.5 Page 22 states the following *“considering permitting motorcycles to use bus lanes subject to any safety concerns being suitably mitigated”*. During the preparation stages of Redditch Borough Councils Core Strategy (Issues and Options May – June 2008) it was requested that bus only lanes were considered for opening up to the wider community traffic if it was deemed that additional community safety issues were present for example natural surveillance and vitality to the District Centres. This was strongly opposed by WCC. Officers would like to seek a view on whether this can now be re-introduced into the Core Strategy with safety concerns being mitigated. Officers also question why Motorcycles are the only method of transport being considered for this.
- 1.6 Page 23 details the importance of services for example working from home, it may be useful to reference the emerging work being conducted at the WCC level and District levels within regard to infrastructure planning and how these two plans can support each other. In particular it may be worth highlighting the important role of this work in this paragraph.
- 1.7 Page 32 refers to the need to get developers to contribute towards transport infrastructure. This needs to be managed correctly through Development Control/ Management Officers at the District and Borough level as this is the main contact developers have when beginning negotiations and preparing Planning Applications.
- 1.8 Page 34 refers to climate change; it is considered that there should be co-ordination between the LTP and District/ Borough climate change strategies to ensure conformity and consistency with each other.
- 1.9 Page 43 states that a Strategic Environmental Assessment, a Health Impact Assessment and an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed, a Sustainability Appraisal is also needed for this document.
- 1.10 Page 47 the second of this paragraph should be ‘deliver’ not ‘delivery’. Also the sentence regarding the Redditch Evening Bus service is not complete and does not state who provides the previous taxibus service currently. The Councils have been made aware that the transport subsidy from WCC is to be cut, what the effect of this cut will be on the Bus Service and how will there be consistency between the aims of LTP3 and budget cuts on the ground is not detailed, Officers have been informed that this cut will effect evening and weekend bus services. The Councils would like more detail on the effects of these

cuts including when the effects are likely to be seen and whether consultation with the Councils can influence the way the cuts are managed i.e. can other arrangements be put in place to ensure services are not reduced. The point regarding the Alexandra Hospital does not specifically state what has been the result of the partnership working.

- 1.11 Page 48 details the Redditch Urban Package. It is questioned whether the intention of the Smarter Choice Programme is to promote an enhanced transport choice in Bromsgrove or Redditch, as this activity is listed under the Redditch package and also under the Bromsgrove package.
- 1.12 Redditch Borough Council strongly supports the delivery of the Redditch Town Centre package. Officers wish to work closely with WCC to ensure the delivery of this project.
- 1.13 Bromsgrove District Council Officers fully support the improvements highlighted as part of the North East Worcestershire Transport Strategy on page 48. This support is particularly endorsed on developments within Bromsgrove Town Centre, including; junction improvements and highway alterations to reduce the impacts of congestion; public realm enhancements; delivery of the Bromsgrove Rail Interchange and promotion of enhanced rail services. The links particularly by public transport between the Town Centre, Railway station and the proposed expansion sites to the north and west of the Town which have been highlighted as Bromsgrove's priorities by the District's LSP, emerging Core Strategy and Town centre AAP should be highlighted and prioritised more specifically in the LTP3.
- 1.14 The fourth bullet point in the North East Worcestershire Rural Package (Page 49) should include the 'District', instead of only mentioning the 'Borough'.
- 1.15 There is no clear link between the package detailed on page 48 and the map on page 49.

Transport Policies

2.0 Cycling Policy

- 2.1 Generally support the provisions of the cycling policies; however it would be helpful to have a clear delivery plan as to how the modal shift will be achieved in the county.

- 2.2 In terms of Policy C1 and C4, Officers support partnership working with Local Authorities to continue to develop a comprehensive cycling network, particularly regarding financial contributions from new developments.
- 2.3 As part of the emerging Bromsgrove Town Centre Area Action Plan, the Council will be aiming to provide adequate parking for bicycles and therefore support Policy C7.

3.0 Development Control (Transport) Policy

No comments.

4.0 Integrated Passenger Transport Policy

- 4.1 Due to the rural nature of Bromsgrove District the need for reliable bus services is fundamental to the provision of sustainable and inclusive communities; therefore Officers recognise the importance of Policy IPTP15.
- 4.2 Although this policy document states (particularly para. 2.5.3) that most bus services are highly variable around the County, with most frequent services provided on key urban and inter-urban routes, more clarification should be made on how this problem is going to be tackled. There should be more policy depth on producing services that are reliable, with greater emphasis on rural areas as these account for a large proportion of the District. Bromsgrove in particular has poor bus links to other parts of the County and this should be addressed within the LTP. Rural services across Bromsgrove are diminishing, instead of being enhanced, which is increasingly becoming a cause for concern, especially in regards to the provision of sustainable rural communities. LTP3 could make reference to the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, which addresses urban transport issues and rural connectivity, focusing on sustainable and affordable solutions.
- 4.3 As highlighted at 1.13 above Bromsgrove District Council's Draft Core Strategy and Town Centre AAP requires new bus routes to serve the Town Centre, linking both existing and new residential areas to key facilities such as the railway station using the Town Centre as the focal point of the network. LTP3 should make reference to these proposals to aid the delivery of such aspirations.
- 4.4 Bromsgrove District's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) stated that funding for the 'Gold Standard' Bromsgrove bus station would need to be included in LTP3, but there is no reference to this. There is a clear lack of the mechanisms that will be used to deliver a number of

elements of the LTP3, which need to be addressed. There are a number of funding implications that are highlighted within Bromsgrove's LSP that are not explained within LTP3. The document mentions a bus stop audit was commissioned as part of LTP2 but not how this will be enhanced in the next plan period. There should also be references to the funding streams needed for railway station improvements.

- 4.5 Officers want to ensure that both Bromsgrove and Redditch retain the level of bus service currently provided and that this is improved where appropriate, or officers are willing to work with the County Council and landowners/developers of key sites to progress developments that can assist with subsidised routes. This is essential for both Core Strategies and the delivery of LTP3 (see paragraph 1.10).

5.0 Intelligent Transport Systems Policy

- 5.1 There should be a focus of investment on the intelligent transport information provided at the Alexandra Hospital. This is a suitable location for potential future applications.

6.0 Motorcycling Policy

- 6.1 Please see comments above regarding opening bus lanes.

7.0 Multimodal Freight Policy

- 7.1 Officers would suggest that there needs to be some realism applied with regards to the encouragement for more sustainable freight transit. There are no details on the investment for this strategy and no reflection of areas where there is little opportunity for new rail or water related freight.
- 7.2 This would benefit from reference to the Hereford and Worcestershire Air Quality Strategy
- 7.3 The Policy to reallocate existing HGV parking away from urban areas needs to be implemented with caution. Any changes would need to ensure accessibility to HGV vehicles which is difficult in some areas.
- 7.4 Paragraph 2.11 does not define what freight consolidation centres are and therefore does not set out what the requirement is for this to enable provision.
- 7.5 Officers consider the multimodal freight policy will provide a comprehensive policy base to enable the delivery of schemes to enhance the efficient movement and operation of freight by all modes

around the County. Making optimum use of the navigable waterways is supported to capitalise on the abundant opportunities that exist across Bromsgrove District.

- 7.6 Officers question whether there is an opportunity to link business rate to transport development to allow direct funding from those who benefit from improved services.

8.0 Smarter Choices Policy

- 8.1 The concept of Travel Plan Bonds (SCP12) is supported. Although more information on how the County Council intends to develop and implement the travel plan bond with its partners and at a local level is essential so that this concept can be reflected in the Borough, City and District Council's Local Development Framework. Any viability issues at a Borough/District scale would need to be considered in its implementation. The policy should provide greater detail on how these bonds are likely to be implemented.
- 8.2 Officers welcome the station travel plan concept and how this would be progressed.
- 8.3 Station Travel Plans (SCP13) would also be extremely beneficial to Bromsgrove and Redditch, particularly for the planned regeneration of Bromsgrove Railway Station and the expansion of the electrified line from Barnt Green and with regard to Redditch given planned regeneration of the train station area. Bromsgrove's LSP also specifically notes the desire for extra parking at Wythall railway station although this has yet to be demonstrated as being needed. Where parking provision is a major problem at the Districts stations SCP13 is supported as it may alleviate some of these pressures.
- 8.4 For the Residential travel plans (SCP16), there would be limited opportunity to implement this policy through County Council Development Control given that the majority of applications for residential development are processed at Borough, City and District level.
- 8.5 Support the provision of 'grey fleet' (Policy SCP15), it is considered that delivery should be carried out with employers to ensure reduction in the need to travel, for example Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council now have a Single Senior Management Team and a number of 'shared services'. Officers consider that this has resulted in a significant increase in 'employee trips' between the two authorities. Therefore the provision of this policy, although supported should be approached with caution and with thought to delivery and the

other priorities that are being implemented around the County for example sharing services.

9.0 Walking and Public Realm Policy

9.1 Officer's support the policies identified in this section as strong links can be made to Bromsgrove's Town Centre AAP. Close collaboration between Worcestershire County Council and Local Authorities as highlighted in W1 is supported as it maximises the potential of the walking network and public realm. Improvements to the public realm in particular (W4) are supported as this is an area that has been identified in need of attention throughout Bromsgrove.

9.2 There are a range of locally distinctive issues in Redditch that need to be considered when aiming to increase walking through LPT3. For example in Redditch the design of the amount of subways and indirect footpaths reduces the amount of people that walk. These design issues need to be addressed before the walking policy can be successful. This issue is addressed in Redditch's emerging Core Strategy.

10.0 Traffic and Parking Management Policy

10.1 Policy TMP1 - Redditch Borough Council has committed to a car parking review of Town Centre Parking provision and reference to this is required within this policy. Is considered that a range of innovative options should be considered when completing a car parking review which will meet the objectives of LTP3 for example employee parking options in the Town Centre.

10.2 Paragraph 2.2.1 lists a number of settlements across Worcestershire that have parking concerns and require tailored, strategic traffic management and parking plans. Officers are in agreement that parking is an area of concern in Bromsgrove and traffic management and parking plans are needed across the District, particularly the town centre.

11.0 Transport and Air Quality Policy

11.1 Figure 3.1 on page 10 would benefit from a key.

11.2 The mention of the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) across Bromsgrove District is welcomed, along with the positive steps being taken to mitigate deteriorating air quality. The two new designations (Hagley and Stoke Heath) are supported as this will lead to AQMA Action Plans which will subsequently improve the air quality in these areas.

12.0 Transport and Climate Change Policy

- 12.1 Officers agree with the overall aim of reducing congestion and the encouragement of walking, cycling and passenger transport. The emphasis on congested urban areas is commended as Bromsgrove District Council are also attempting to alleviate congestion in the Town Centre through the emerging Core Strategy and Bromsgrove Town Centre AAP.
- 12.2 Although references are made to flooding, more prominence can be made throughout this policy to ensure that main transport routes in Bromsgrove and Redditch (particularly Feckenham from Swans Brook) are not flooded and/or alternative (sustainable transport) routes are available during extreme weather.

13.0 Transport Safety Policy

- 13.1 Due to the rural nature of Bromsgrove District Policy TS4 regarding rural road speed limits is needed to ensure community safety.

14.0 Transport Asset Management Plan Policy

No comments.

15.0 Transport Accessibility Policy

No comments.

16.0 Other comments

- 16.1 Many motorway and/or railway verges are used by wildlife to move around, hence the importance of wildlife corridors. There is no mention of this topic throughout LTP3, which would be beneficial to Local Authority Green Infrastructure studies. There could also be specific regard given to the sub-regional Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 16.2 Officers have received verbal confirmation previously from the County Council that the Bordesley by-pass would not be a deliverable infrastructure project that would be implemented. It would be helpful if this could be put in writing to both councils to form part of their Core Strategy Evidence Base.
- 16.3 Officers wish to ensure that the implications of future development on transport as evidenced in both Authorities Transport Assessments are

fully incorporated into the provisions of LTP3 for example junction improvements where they are necessary.

- 16.4 Numerous policies and aspirations throughout LTP3 are 'subject to funding', yet the strategy does not explain what contingency plans will be used if the necessary funding is unavailable. As well as funding issues, there is a distinct lack of the delivery mechanisms that will be used to implement LTP3, more details should be explained throughout the report.
- 16.5 Overall, Officers commend the numerous references throughout LTP3 referring to collaborative working with Local Authorities and the private sector to successfully implement the plan, although more could be said in regards to specific areas. The 'Bromsgrove Urban Package' within the main document fails to reference the joint working needed with Bromsgrove District Council to create an integrated movement network around the Town Centre which links with a range of transport options in the wider area.

