

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Date 11th February 2014

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO BIRMINGHAM DEVELOPMENT
PLAN PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Greg Chance
Portfolio Holder Consulted	YES
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	YES
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report requests approval of a response from Redditch Borough Council (RBC) (attached at Appendix 1) to the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) Pre-submission Draft. A response needs to be submitted to Birmingham City Council no later than 3rd March 2014 (in line with consultation period dates).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is asked to RECOMMEND to the Council that the RBC response (attached at Appendix 1) to the BDP Pre-Submission Draft be approved to be sent to Birmingham City Council.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

None

Legal Implications

All Local Authorities have a legal obligation to produce a Local Plan in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.1 In accordance with the above legal requirements Birmingham City Council (BCC) are required to prepare a plan. Under previous regulations they are progressing with a Development Plan. Birmingham has a significant unmet housing need that it cannot accommodate within its own boundaries. As such the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) of which Redditch are a member are seeking a solution to identifying locations for meeting this need. With regard to this issue and the Duty to Cooperate, Officers consider a response to the Pre-Submission Draft version of the BDP to be necessary.

Officers recommend that the following key points are included in any submission to Birmingham in response to the draft version of their Local Plan (the full response can be seen at Appendix 1):

- 3.2 RBC recognises that Policy PG1: Overall levels of growth and Policy TP28: The housing trajectory do not make adequate provision for the unmet housing needs. RBC are mindful that there is a lack of detail in terms of how Birmingham will deal with the remaining level and distribution of growth owing to a lack of evidence. There is also considered to a lack of clarity as to when the expected rates of housing will be delivered across the plan period for those homes outside of the City's boundary.
- 3.3 RBC supports the proposed sustainable urban extension (SUE) to provide for an additional 6,000 homes. However, RBC want to be confident that the sustainable capacities of the land for development are fully considered.
- 3.4 RBC supports *Policy TP16: Portfolio of employment land and premises*, however it would like to ensure that any employment which is required to accompany the unmet housing needs outside of Birmingham is fairly distributed.
- 3.5 RBC support the inclusion of Policy T25: Local Employment which encourages new employment opportunities that are accessible to the local population.
- 3.6 RBC support the references to Redditch Borough Council in Birmingham's Duty to Cooperate Statement (October 2013).

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

None

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Under the 'duty to cooperate' local planning authorities and other prescribed bodies in relation to planning for sustainable development are duty-bound to cooperate when preparing Development Plan Documents. If the Officer response to the draft Birmingham Development Plan is not approved then this would affect the influence RBC can have on the content of the Birmingham Development Plan. In turn this could affect the content of the Redditch Plan and may lead to both documents being found unsound should the content of these two plans conflict.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Redditch Borough Council response to the Birmingham Development Plan Pre-submission Draft

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Birmingham City Council – Birmingham Development Plan – Pre-Submission Draft

Birmingham City Council – Issues and Options - autumn of 2008

Birmingham City Council - Core Strategy 2010/11 - Consultation Draft

Birmingham City Council - Planning for Birmingham's Growing Population - Options Consultation Stage 2012/13

7. KEY

RBC - Redditch Borough Council

BCC – Birmingham City Council

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