

Executive Committee

2 March 2009

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors P Anderson, J Brunner, B Clayton and M Hall

Also Present:

M Chalk and M Shurmer

Officers:

R Bamford, S Hanley, G Harris, A Walsh and A Williams

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

243. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor MacMillan.

244. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

245. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Leader's Announcements.

246. CORE STRATEGY EVIDENCE BASE

The Committee received the finalised versions of a number of key documents to add to the suite of documents that had been produced for the purposes of public consultation. The meeting was informed that all of the documents had been considered by the Planning Advisory Panel at some stage.

The Employment Land Review prompted questions regarding the siting of additional employment land and the types of units envisaged. Much of the proposed development was sited at the

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boundaries of the Borough within adjacent Districts. Officers corrected a typographical error in paragraph 5.3 of the covering report, noting that the figure in the final sentence should have read 59 hectares rather than 51 hectares. This reflected the target for employment land calculated through the Planning Advisory Panel.

There was some concern that the majority of employment development within the Borough comprised large units whereas there had been less success in attracting smaller units and office-based businesses. This was in part the result of the type of speculative development that had taken place on existing sites by the landowners concerned.

With regard to the Open Space Needs Assessment, it was noted that there may be a need to modify the recommendation as Members and Officers were to undertake a site visit prior to the recommendation being considered at the Council meeting on 9 March 2009.

The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment had concluded that the capacity of the Borough for new dwellings was considerably lower than the target that was being considered through the draft Regional Spatial Strategy. The Borough's proposed target of 2232 dwellings was predicated on the assumption that ADR land should not be used for development. The revised figure had been reached through assumptions being made on dwelling density and the use of indicative layouts.

The remainder of the housing allocation for the Borough was expected to be sited outside of the Borough but adjacent to the Borough Boundary in Bromsgrove and Stratford on Avon Districts. Members had some sympathy with the neighbouring authorities in that it was not necessarily considered that proposed development contiguous to the Redditch Borough boundary was the most desirable outcome for either community.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Employment Land Review, Open Space Needs Assessment, 'Public Open Space Standards in the Borough', Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Bromsgrove and Redditch SFRA and WCS Addendum, 'Study into the Future Growth Implications of Redditch Second Stage Report' and Technical Paper - Sustainability Appraisal and Sustainability Appraisal**

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Refresh be endorsed for the purposes of a period of public participation commencing on the 27 March 2009 and ending on the 8 May 2009.

- 2) authority be delegated to the Acting Development Plans Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Local Environment, Planning and Transport, to make any further minor revisions to any appendices prior to the participation period commencing on the 27 March 2009 and this might include the addition of technical appendices to the SHLAA.**
- 3) authority be delegated to the Acting Development Plans Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Local Environment, Planning and Transport to accept the final draft of the Water Cycle Strategy and publish for the purposes of public consultation commencing on 27 March and ending on 8 May 2009.**

247. BROMSGROVE AND STRATFORD-ON-AVON DISTRICT COUNCILS' CORE STRATEGY RESPONSES

Members' retrospective approval was sought for responses to the documents produced by Bromsgrove and Stratford on Avon District Councils entitled "Core Strategy Draft Document", both of which had been put out for consultation in November 2008.

The response to Stratford on Avon prompted most discussion amongst Members. Officers clarified that the land adjacent to the A435 on either side of the boundary between the two authorities had been treated in a complementary fashion by Redditch and Stratford on Avon. It was proposed to define much of this as green belt. Members were not content with the response in respect of the Winyates Green Triangle and the proposal to use this site for employment land with access from Far Moor Lane. It was agreed that the type of desired use be more closely defined and the strong wish for access from the A435 rather than from Far Moor Lane be stated.

Officers undertook to provide Councillor Hall with further information concerning Gypsy, Traveller and Show People's sites in Bromsgrove District following the meeting.

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RESOLVED that

the responses from Redditch Borough Council to the Bromsgrove and Stratford Draft Core Strategy Documents (Appendices A and B) be retrospectively endorsed, subject to the submission of an addendum to the response to Stratford-on-Avon expressing the Council's desire to see B1 (Business) use only on the Winyates Triangle site and access to this site being gained from the A435, with the wording to this addendum being agreed in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

248. THE WORCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN

The Committee considered the draft Worcestershire Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan as developed through the Economy and Transport Theme Group of the Worcestershire Partnership. Officers were concerned that the Plan did not accurately reflect either the Borough Council's economic priorities or the Borough's proposed designation as a Settlement of Significant Development. A number of proposed amendments had been included within the document for consideration.

It was stated that the Council would have the opportunity to make representations to other Members of the Partnership but the interests of the Borough would have to be weighed against the interests of the other partners. There was a general consensus that the town had much to commend it as a base for employment and it was suggested that this message needed to be more effectively put across. Members were keen that both local Civic and Business Leaders be actively engaged in the role of ambassadors for the town in order that Redditch might be promoted as a place in which to do business and that this be reflected in the developing Redditch Economic Strategy.

RESOLVED that

if Redditch is designated a Settlement of Significant Development in the Regional Spatial Strategy, the Worcestershire Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan be endorsed subject to the amendments in Appendix A;

or

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if Redditch is not designated a Settlement of Significant Development in the Regional Spatial Strategy, the Worcestershire Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan be endorsed subject to the amendments in Appendix B.

249. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of a recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The minutes incorporated the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the final report from the Worcestershire Joint Scrutiny into Flooding Task and Finish Group. A number of recommendations had arisen from consideration of this report.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4 February 2009 be received and noted;**
- 2) a working party of relevant Officers assess the implications of the Worcestershire Joint Scrutiny into Flooding final recommendations for Redditch Borough Council;**
- 3) the working party of Officers present the Task and Finish Group's final recommendations at a meeting of the Executive Committee alongside their comments; and**
- 4) an all Member emergency planning training session be set up.**

250. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS, NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS ETC.

There were no minutes or referrals under this item.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 8.55pm

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Chair