

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

29th May 2012

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO STRATFORD – ON – AVON DRAFT CORE STRATEGY

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development & Transport
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning & Regeneration
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	Yes
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report requests that the Redditch Borough Council (RBC) response (attached at Appendix 1) to the Stratford-on-Avon Draft Core Strategy be approved to formalise the Officer response submitted to Stratford-On-Avon District Council (SoADC) on 29th March 2012 (in line with consultation period dates). The response supports the Districts Core Strategy and promotes joint working where required (particularly with regard to meeting employment needs) to ensure both Authorities progress with sound plans.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that the Officer response (attached at Appendix 1) to the Stratford-on-Avon Draft Core Strategy, as submitted to Stratford-On-Avon District Council (SoADC) on 29th March 2012 (in line with consultation period dates), be endorsed.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 None.

Legal Implications

3.2 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.

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Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 In accordance with the above legal requirements SoADC are required to prepare a plan. Under previous regulations they are progressing with a Core Strategy. Stratford-On-Avon have previously consulted Redditch on two stages of the draft Core Strategy. Both responses have supported the policies put forward in the strategy and have recommended that the two Authorities work together to progress plans that complement each other. On this basis the following key points have been submitted to Stratford in response to this version of the draft Core Strategy (the full response can be seen at Appendix 1).
- 3.4 RBC strongly supports references in the document to the potential need to accommodate Redditch related growth. RBC feels it is in a position to work closely with SoADC on the progression of this aspect of the plan and can provide detailed information on the exceptional circumstances which demonstrate that cross-boundary growth is essential, particularly with regard to employment allocations at Gorcott Hill;
- 3.5 It is noted from the plan that Redditch provides a significant amount employment to Stratford residents, accordingly it would be appropriate that some employment land need generated by Redditch should be accommodated in a suitable location within Stratford District;
- 3.6 RBC recommends that housing options between Studley and Redditch (Options 1 and 2) are likely to be unsuitable locations for development as these locations would reduce the gap between Studley and Redditch where this land serves an important Green Belt purpose (contradicting two of the principles contained within the Draft Plan);
- 3.7 RBC would suggest discussions with Bromsgrove District Council and SoADC regarding alignment of submission dates in the interests of cooperation; and
- 3.8 RBC would support the allocation of housing and some employment along the A435 Corridor.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.9 None.

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4. RISK MANAGEMENT

If the Officer response to the Stratford-On-Avon Draft Core Strategy is not approved then this would affect the influence RBC can have on the content of the Stratford-On-Avon Core Strategy. 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 Stratford-on-Avon Draft Core Strategy

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Stratford-On-Avon Draft Core Strategy (October 2008).

Redditch Borough Council response to the Stratford Core Strategy Draft Document (January 2009).

Stratford-On-Avon Consultation Core Strategy (February 2010).

Redditch Borough Council Representations on 'Directions for Stratford-on-Avon District Consultation Core Strategy' (March 2010)

7. KEY

RBC - Redditch Borough Council
SoADC - Stratford – on – Avon District Council

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