

# Joint Cabinet/Executive Committee

Minutes of the meeting held remotely on Wednesday 14 April 2021 at 4.00pm, which was broadcast live via the Joint [YouTube channel](#) for the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

## **Present:**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council: Councillors Jennings, Pemberton and Shenton.  
Warwick District Council: Councillors Cooke, Day and Hales.

**Also Present:** Councillor Milton (Chair of the Warwick Overview & Scrutiny Committee), Councillor Boad (Warwick Liberal Democrat Group Observer), Councillor Davison (Warwick Green Group Observer), and Councillor Mangat (Warwick Labour Group Observer), Councillor O'Donnell (Chair of the Stratford-on-Avon Overview & Scrutiny Committee) and Councillor Juned (Stratford-on-Avon Liberal Democrat Group Observer).

## 1. **Appointment of Chairman**

It was proposed by Councillor Pemberton, seconded by Councillor Jennings and

**Resolved** that Councillor Day be appointed as Chairman up to next meeting.

## 2. **Apologies for Absence**

- (1) Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Parry; and
- (2) Councillor Shenton substituted for Councillor Parry.

## 3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

## 4. **South Warwickshire Local Plan – Scoping Report**

The Committee considered a report that outlined the work that had been carried out to date by both Councils to prepare a Local Plan for South Warwickshire and sought agreement to undertake a Scoping and Call for Sites consultation.

In July 2020, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's (SDC) Cabinet and Warwick District Council's (WDC) Executive agreed a joint statement that had been prepared by the Leaders of the two Councils. This included the statement: "*that agreement be given in principle to conducting a Joint Core Strategy/Local Plan Review and that a further paper be presented setting out details of a proposed programme, a member and officer governance*".

Subsequently, in October 2020 the Councils both approved a paper prepared by officers, in consultation with Councillor Pemberton, the Portfolio Holder for Place (SDC) and Councillor Cooke, the Portfolio Holder for Development (WDC) which confirmed the agreement to prepare a single Local Plan for South Warwickshire, which would replace both the SDC Core Strategy and

WDC Local Plan. These reports supported the principle of establishing a Joint Committee of Councillors from both Councils to consider and agree key reports relating to the Local Plan. The reports also agreed the establishment of a Joint Member Advisory Group.

A further report, approved by both Councils in February 2021, agreed the establishment of this Joint Committee.

Since October, officers and Councillors had been working together to commence work on the new Local Plan. It had been agreed that the document would be called the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP). To date, the work on the SWLP had three main elements: (1) early technical work undertaken by officers in consultation with Portfolio Holders, (2) engagement with the Member Advisory Group and (3) early stakeholder engagement. This had culminated in the document attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

There were potentially two options available to the Joint Committee. The first would be to amend the scoping document before consulting in due course. The second option would be for the Joint Committee not to undertake a public consultation on the scoping document.

In respect of the first option, Members were reminded that the scoping document was simply the first stage in a process and did not make any decisions itself. It was a discussion document about how the Councils could best meet the development challenges facing South Warwickshire to 2050. It made some suggestions in order to elicit responses. As the document itself stressed, further detailed technical work needed to be undertaken to assess the suitability and/or appropriateness of any locations for future development. This consultation would help focus where and how to move forward.

In respect of the second option, such an approach was not supported. Early engagement with the public and key stakeholders was important to help local communities understand the Local Plan process and to help inform both Councils as they made key decisions on the strategy and policies of the Local Plan at a later stage. Early engagement with surrounding planning authorities was also important to underpin the Councils' duty to cooperate requirements.

**Resolved** that

- (1) the work that has been carried out to date on commencing preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan, be noted;
- (2) the consultation document "South Warwickshire Local Plan: Stage 1: Scoping and Call for Sites Consultation", attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for consultation with the public and stakeholders; and
- (3) the two lead officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Place (Stratford-on-Avon District Council) and Development (Warwick District

Council), be authorised to make any final editorial amendments to the Scoping Document prior to consultation.

(The Portfolio Holders for this item were Councillor Pemberton & Councillor Cooke)

5. **Urgent Business**

There were no urgent business items.

(The meeting ended at 4.50pm)

CHAIRMAN  
7 December 2022