

# EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21 May 2012 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Michael Doody (Chairman), Councillors Caborn, Coker, Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Mobbs, Shilton and Vincett.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Boad (Liberal Democrat Group Observer), Councillor Brookes, Councillor Gifford (Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee), Councillor Mrs Higgins, Councillor Illingworth, Councillor Mrs Knight (Chair of Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee), Councillor Pittarello and Councillor Rhead.

## 1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### Minute Number 2 - Local Plan Preferred Options

Councillors Caborn, Doody and Shilton declared a personal interest because they were Warwickshire County Councillors.

#### **PART 1**

(Items which a decision by Council is required)

NIL

#### **PART 2**

(Items which a decision by Council is not required)

## 2. **LOCAL PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS**

The Executive considered a report from the Corporate Management Team and the Development Policy Manager that set out the proposals of the Preferred Options for the new Warwick District Local Plan and recommended that these be agreed for consultation.

The Council agreed on 1 December 2011 to bring forward preferred options for consultation as a key part of its Local Plan process. Council also agreed a strategy statement, 'The future and sustainable prosperity for Warwick District', which set out the basis on which it wished the Local Plan to be developed. The statement clearly set out the Council's aspirations and any constraints to development which it wished to see addressed in the subsequent development of the Local Plan.

Since December, officers had worked closely with the Group Leaders to ensure that the Preferred Options, and in particular the site allocations, were consistent with the strategic direction set by Council in the Statement. The preferred options set out in Appendix 1 to the report, demonstrated a sound approach to deliver the Council's desired approach set out in the Strategy, whilst also taking account of the new National Planning Policy

Framework (NPPF) and the consultation carried out in Spring 2011. The justification for each of the preferred options was also set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The draft Infrastructure Plan had been developed through close working with various infrastructure providers. The Plan showed that the preferred options could be supported by a range of infrastructure which would ensure the new communities living in newly developed areas could be serviced by the facilities, services and infrastructure they needed. As a result of new development, there would be more demand on the Districts infrastructure and services, so existing communities would be impacted.

The Infrastructure Plan showed the steps that could be taken to mitigate against this and, in some circumstances, it showed that there could be potential for existing communities to benefit from some of this infrastructure, for example improvement to the transport network, improvements to open space and access to the countryside. More work was required on the details and viability of the infrastructure. This would be carried out prior to the preparation of a draft Local Plan, so that a costed and viable Infrastructure Delivery Plan could be developed and agreed alongside the proposals for the Draft Local Plan. It was also intended to develop a Community Infrastructure Levy scheme as a key tool for delivering the Infrastructure Plan.

The Garden Suburbs and Villages prospectus had been developed to show how these aspects of the Council's Local Plan Strategy could be delivered. It did not provide site specific details, but provided a visual indication of how garden suburbs and villages could be developed within the District whilst seeking to ensure the different demands of modern living were taken account of. This would form part of the consultation and had the potential beyond that to be a significant influence on master-planning for development sites and on future design guidance.

The Council had previously agreed that an 8 week period of consultation should be undertaken following the publication of the Preferred Options. It was intended to commence this period of consultation on 1 June 2012 and end it on 27 July. However, the deadlines for preparing and printing documents for this consultation were tight and the recommendation therefore included the potential for an additional week before the start of the consultation. In the event of the consultation not starting until 8 June, it would end on 3 August 2012.

The Preferred Options had been developed to align with the Sustainable Community Strategy and to form a key part of its delivery. They had also been developed to show how the Strategy for the Future and Sustainable Prosperity of Warwick District agreed by Council on 1 December 2011 could be delivered.

In December 2010, Executive agreed to set aside a budget from the Planning Appeals reserve to support the development of the new Local Plan. The costs associated with the consultation and further research described in the report would be covered from within this budget. The viability of the

Infrastructure Plan would be explored to ensure this could be delivered. This would be reported to Members alongside the Draft Plan in December 2012 or January 2013.

As members had previously agreed that the Preferred Options and associated Infrastructure Plans should be prepared and reported at this time and that this should form the basis of a period of consultation, no alternatives had been considered.

A number of alternative options to those set out in Appendix 1 had been considered. The reasons why these options did not form the Council's Preferred Options were detailed within the topic chapters in Appendix 1.

The Joint Overview & Scrutiny and Finance & Audit Committee made the following comments in respect of the Local Plan Preferred Options:

1. Transport – the wording in reference to HS2 should be consistent with that used in the report that went to Council on 1 December 2011 "Interpreting the Vision – Development of the Local Plan for Warwick District" on page 16.

*Following the Joint Committee's meeting, in respect of consistent wording, Dave Barber subsequently suggested that the wording for the preferred option on HS2 should be changed to read:*

*"Our Preferred Option is not to support or make provision for the HS2 rail line".*

*This would be consistent with the wording in the December report which read:*

*"...a comprehensive sustainable transport package including....; but which does **not** include provision or support for HS2"*

2. Affordable Housing - it should be emphasised that the requirement that 40% of new homes on developments of 10 or more dwellings in urban areas, and 5 or more dwellings in rural areas would be enforced unless there are "exceptional" circumstances.
3. Green Belt – paragraph 16.5 should be omitted.

The Joint Committee thanked the officers for the work they had done under such tight timescales.

Councillor Caborn, thanked all members for their input into the development of the Local Plan so far. He thanked the Scrutiny Committees for their comments and welcomed these. He noted the views from Council earlier that evening encouraging everyone to respond to the consultation either positively or negatively. He assured members that officers had noted the comments on the use of photos of different areas to provide examples of the garden suburbs. He also noted the concerns of members regarding paragraph 16.5 and for this reason proposed the recommendations as set

out in the report subject to four amendments, which was duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the Preferred Options, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, are approved for public consultation subject to:
  - (a) the inclusion of revised Map 2 – Potential Suitable Urban Edge of Urban Sites;
  - (b) the inclusion of Burton Green as a Category 2 growth village;
  - (c) the preferred option on HS2 be amended to read: "Our preferred option is not to support or make provision for the HS2 rail line; and
  - (d) Green Belt paragraph 16.5, be reviewed by officers before publication and the final wording of this paragraph be delegated to the Head of Development Services in consultation with the Deputy Leader; and
  - (e) with regard to affordable housing the inclusion of the emphasis that the requirement for 40% of new homes on developments of 10 or more dwellings in urban areas, and 5 or more dwellings in rural areas will be enforced unless there are "exceptional" circumstances;
- (2) the emerging Infrastructure Plan, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, and the Garden Suburbs and Villages Prospectus, attached as Appendix 3 to the report, inform the consultation exercise by providing an indication of how existing and future communities might develop and operate; and
- (3) the Preferred Options consultation period commences as soon as possible before the 8 June 2012 and runs for a period of 8 weeks.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Caborn)

(The meeting ended 8.00pm)