

 Full Council and Executive 21st May 2012		Agenda Item No.
Title	Local Plan – Preferred Options	
For further information about this report please contact	Dave Barber - Development Policy Manager Chris Elliott – Chief Executive Andrew Jones, Bill Hunt – Deputy Chief Executive	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	1 st December 2012, Council	
Background Papers	Strategy for the Future and Sustainable Prosperity of Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy Plus evidence documents referenced in Appendix 1	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	Yes
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No /Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		Bill Hunt
Head of Service		Tracy Darke
CMT		Chris Elliott, Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer		Andrew Jones
Finance		Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)		ClIr Les Caborn
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Consultation on growth options was undertaken in Spring 2011 Various discussions with Strategic Partners and Infrastructure Providers		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below):		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposals for the Preferred Options for the new Warwick District Local Plan and recommends that these are agreed for consultation.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Council agrees and recommends to Executive that the Preferred Options set out in Appendix 1 are approved for public consultation.
- 2.2 That Council agrees and recommends to Executive that the emerging Infrastructure Plan (appendix 2) and the Garden Suburbs and Villages Prospectus (appendix 3) inform the consultation exercise by providing an indication of how existing and future communities might develop and operate.
- 2.3 That Council agrees and recommends to Executive that the Preferred Options consultation period commences as soon as possible before the 8th June 2012 and runs for a period of 8 weeks.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Recommendation 2.1: The Council agreed on 1st 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.
- 3.2 Since December officers have worked closely with the Group Leaders to ensure that the Preferred Options, and in particular the site allocations, are consistent with the strategic direction set by Council in that Statement. The preferred options set out in Appendix 1 therefore demonstrate a soundly based approach to deliver the Council's desired approach set out in that 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 is also set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Recommendation 2.2: The draft Infrastructure Plan has been developed through close working with various infrastructure providers. The Plan shows that the preferred options can be supported by a range of infrastructure which will ensure the new communities living in newly developed areas can be serviced by the facilities, services and infrastructure they need. As a result of new development, there will be more demand on the Districts infrastructure and services, so existing communities will be impacted.
- 3.4 The Infrastructure Plan shows the steps that can be taken to mitigate against this and, in some circumstances, it also shows that there may 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 is still to be done on the details and viability of the infrastructure. This will be carried prior to the preparation of a draft Local Plan, so that a costed and viable Infrastructure Delivery Plan can be developed and agreed alongside the proposals for the Draft Local Plan. It is also intended to develop a Community Infrastructure Levy scheme as a key tool for delivering the Infrastructure Plan.

- 3.5 The Garden Suburbs and Villages prospectus has been developed to show how these aspects of the Council's Local Plan Strategy could be delivered. It does not provide site specific details, but does give a visual indication of how garden suburbs and villages could be developed within the District – building on much that is liked about Garden Towns whilst seeking to ensure the different demands of modern living are taken account of. This will form part of the consultation and has the potential beyond that to be a significant influence on master-planning for development sites and on future design guidance.
- 3.6 Recommendation 2.3: The Council has previously agreed that an 8 week period of consultation should be undertaken following the publication of the Preferred Options. It is intended to commence this period of consultation on 1st June 2012 and end it on 27th July. However the deadlines for preparing and printing documents for this consultation are tight and the recommendation has therefore included the potential for an additional week before the start of the consultation. In the event of the consultation not starting until 8th June, it will end on 3rd August.

4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

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

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 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 will be covered from within this budget. The viability of the Infrastructure Plan will be explored to ensure this can be delivered. This will be reported to members alongside the Draft Plan in December 2012 or January 2013.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 As members have 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 have been considered.

- 6.2 A number of alternative options to those set out in Appendix 1 have been considered. The reasons why these options do not form the Council's Preferred Options are detailed within the topic chapters in Appendix 1.

APPENDICES AND MAPS

Appendix 1: The Preferred Options for Consultation

Appendix 2: Draft Infrastructure Plan

Appendix 3: Garden Towns, Villages and Suburbs Prospectus

Map 1: District in Context

Map 2: Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Sites

Map 3: Development Sites - Preferred Option (whole District)

Map 4: Development Sites – Preferred Option (Urban Fringe)

Map 5: Possible Transport Infrastructure

Map 6: Possible Green Infrastructure