

 Executive 10th June 2009		Agenda Item No.
Title	Core Strategy Preferred Options	
For further information about this report please contact	John Archer	
Service Area	Planning	
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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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	18 th March 2009 Executive, Minute no. 15	
Background Papers	Background evidence and reports available online at: www.warwickdc.gov.uk/corestrategy	

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 (141)

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	20/05/09	Bill Hunt
Chief Executive	21/05/09	Chris Elliott
CMT	21/05/09	
Section 151 Officer	20/05/09	Andy Jones
Legal	20/05/09	Peter Oliver
Finance	20/05/09	Marcus Miskinis
Portfolio Holder(s)	22/05/09	Councillor John Hammon
Consultation Undertaken		
Consultation with Cllrs. Ms. De-Lara-Bond, Caborn, Malcolm Doody, Edwards, Guest, Illingworth, Mackay, Pittarello, Crowther, Shilton (all members of the Development Plans Working Party)		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks the Executive's approval to undertake public consultation on the "Preferred Options" for the Council's Core Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Executive recommends to Full Council that Warwick District Council should undertake public consultation on the "Preferred Options" for the Core Strategy.
- 2.2 That the draft "Preferred Options" paper attached as **Appendix One** forms the basis for the public consultation.
- 2.3 That the Executive and Full Council receive a draft Core Strategy in due course, taking into account the responses from the public consultation where appropriate.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council are required by legislation to prepare a Core Strategy for the District and as part of the process of preparation it is necessary to provide opportunities for the public to participate at key stages. The Council has already undertaken two stages of consultation on the "Issues" which the Core Strategy must address and the "Options for Growth".
- 3.2 Members resolved at the December Executive to undertake a further stage in the process, referred to as the "Preferred Options" during Spring 2009. At the March Executive, Members resolved that this matter be considered at the April meeting of the Full Council. This decision was subsequently deferred by the Leader of the Council in order to allow potential emerging urban regeneration opportunities within Leamington Spa to be considered by the Development Plans Working Party which has now been undertaken. The predominant view of the Working Party was to support the above recommendations.
- 3.3 The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) requires Full Council approval for the "Preferred Options" before consultation can take place and the Executive are therefore asked to recommend to the Full Council to be held on June 16th 2009 that this consultation be undertaken.
- 3.4 The "Preferred Options" stage is concerned with setting out the proposed policy direction for the Core Strategy, building on the "Issues" and "Options" papers. This includes identifying the proposed policy response to the key issues and the alternative approaches considered and dismissed. The purpose of consulting on the "Preferred Options" is to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the various options and alternatives proposed at this key stage. Notwithstanding the fact there is no longer a statutory requirement to undertake this stage of consultation, due to changes made to the legislation by the Government last year, it is recommended this consultation is undertaken.
- 3.5 The "Preferred Options" paper is self explanatory and has been prepared by the Planning Policy Team in consultation with the Development Plans Working Party. It has been informed by the two previous stages of the Core Strategy and the responses received to the consultation exercises. In accordance with the Council's SCI, a summary of views from the previous consultation are attached as **Appendix Two** and a separate Report of Public Consultation is available on the Council's

website. The paper is also aligned with the Council's draft Sustainable Community Strategy which is a separate item on this agenda.

- 3.6 The paper has also been informed by the evidence gathered by the Council in relation to the various issues the Core Strategy seeks to address. This evidence is set out in a number of documents that are published separately on the Council's website. These include a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, Employment Land Review and Retail and Leisure Study. National and regional planning policies also have a significant influence on the "preferred options" for the Core Strategy and these are also set out within the paper. A Sustainability Appraisal of the Paper has also been prepared as a background document and is available on the Council website.
- 3.7 The paper will form the basis for public consultation for an eight week period running into early September 2009. This is longer than the usual six week period in order to provide adequate opportunity for people to comment during the holiday period. In accordance with the Council's SCI, the consultation will include the following elements:
- Advertisement in the local press and press release to the local media;
 - Published on the Council's website;
 - Hard copies made available at all public deposit points around the District;
 - Letters or e-mail alerts to all people on a database of interested parties and individuals;
 - Questionnaire form to guide respondents;
 - Meeting for Town and Parish Councils on 22nd June 2009 at 7pm at the Town Hall to explain the "Preferred Options"; and,
 - Attendance at other meetings/groups where requested.
- 3.8 Following the public consultation, all comments received will be analysed by the Planning Policy Team and will be reported back to Members in order to inform the draft Core Strategy in due course. This is proposed to be reported back to Members in January 2010.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The Council has previously committed to consulting on the "Preferred Options". Not to do so now would deny the public an opportunity to comment on the emerging Core Strategy, and increase the risk of the Core Strategy ultimately being found 'unsound' by an Inspector due to a lack of public involvement in the preparation of the Core Strategy. This may leave the Council without a planning framework for the future growth of the District and vulnerable to ad hoc proposals for housing development.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 It is anticipated that this consultation can be undertaken within the existing budgetary framework.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The recommendation conforms with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, Local Development Scheme and will help achieve many of the targets within the Corporate Strategy and Sustainable Community Strategy.