

EXECUTIVE

Excerpt of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 September 2013 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Doody (Chairman), Councillors Caborn, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Mobbs and Shilton.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Barrott (Chair of Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee), Councillor Mrs Blacklock (Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee), Councillor Boad (Liberal Democrat Group Observer) and Councillor MacKay (Independent Group Observer).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coker, Cross and Vincett.

51. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made about this item.

PART 1

(Items on which a decision by Council is required)

53. **WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO STRATFORD-ON-AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION PROCESS**

The Executive received a report from Development Services which updated members on the content of the new proposals for Stratford's Core Strategy, and identified and examined possible implications on Warwick District Council's Local Plan development strategy.

In addition, the report asked Members to agree and formally submit Warwick District Council's consultation response to the Stratford Core Strategy process.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) was consulting on specific new proposals in its emerging Core Strategy which included the regeneration of the 'Canal Quarter' along with new employment sites in Stratford-on-Avon, and a new settlement at Gaydon / Lighthorne Heath. These new proposals originated from the need to increase their District's housing requirement for the period 2008 to 2028 from 8,000 homes to 9,500 homes.

Key components of Stratford's Development Strategy included expansion of housing including the main town, rural centres and large brownfield sites; and additional and re-located employment land.

The report also outlined SDC's existing proposals and new proposals and the justification for each of them.

All of these projects would have implications for Warwick District Council, not only on transport links, services and environmental factors but would also have potential impacts on the Council's emerging revised development strategy.

The report recommended that the Council submit no objections to SDC's new proposals consultation provided that the main implications were fully considered and catered for. Officers also felt that the District Council should reserve its right to make objections at the next stage of the process and that officers should monitor the progress and report back to Executive in due course.

An alternative option would be not to submit a consultation response; however it would almost certainly not be in the best interests of Warwick District and its population / emerging development strategy. Working corroboratively with Stratford towards a mutually acceptable outcome was felt to be the best way to progress both development plans.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee support the recommendations in the report. It recognised the importance of the discussions and had concerns about the potential traffic impact in Warwick District; therefore it welcomed discussions with Warwick County Council and hoped that these would focus particularly on infrastructure.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Caborn, endorsed the report and stated that the report laid out the Council's marker with the understanding that because discussions would be on-going, Members may choose to propose different recommendations later. He assured Members that discussions would continue about the Lighthorne development which could have a big impact on traffic issues for Warwick District. Councillor Caborn advised that this was by no means a formal objection but would reserve the Council's right to comment in the future.

Having read the report the Executive decided to agree the recommendations as written.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) Warwick District Council submits no objections to the Stratford District Council New Proposals Consultation provided that the issues itemised in paragraph 7.8 of this report are fully considered and catered for to our mutual satisfaction in accordance to the duty to co-operate provisions within the NPPF;
- (2) Warwick District Council reserves its right to make objections to the Submission Draft of Stratford's Local Plan (the next stage in the process) in the event the matters itemised in paragraph 7.8 of this report are not progressed successfully; and

- (3) officers monitor the progress of the Stratford Core Strategy process and report back to Executive in due course should there be any significant ramifications for The Warwick District Local Plan.

(The Portfolio Holders for this item was Councillor Hammon)