

Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership response to the Warwick District Council Publication Draft Local Plan: Focused Consultation.

The Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) was established in January 2011 to drive economic growth across the sub-region. The CWLEP seeks to ensure that all private and public sector parties are working together with a shared purpose – to make a difference to the economy and increase prosperity. The four key objectives of CWLEP are:

- To drive economic growth
- To help remove barriers to economic growth
- To help create high value jobs
- To coordinate local government co-operation and support.

The Warwick District Council Publication Draft Local Plan: Focused Consultation document seeks to alter the initial allocation of sites at Gallows Hill and ‘Opus 40’ in Warwick from employment land use to residential. The employment land use allocation is proposed to be offset at a location at Stratford Road, Warwick.

Our understanding is that the proposed alterations will result in no net loss of proposed employment land allocations (to remain at 11.7 hectares). The residential allocations are proposed to include the Gallows Hill and Opus 40 sites and therefore increase the amount of residential land allocations by 11.7 hectares. The Warwick District Council Publication Draft Local Plan: Focused Consultation document also seeks to increase the number of dwellings proposed at Land West of Europa Way from 1190 to 1300.

Overall, the proposed alterations to the Draft Local Plan are consistent with the CWLEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) which includes the objective to increase the number of new homes across Coventry and Warwickshire by 76,000 and the volume of employment land by 250 hectares by 2031.

As part of the ongoing development and implementation of the Local Plan, CWLEP are keen to ensure that the proposed alterations do not compromise the volume of net developable land for employment and housing at the respective sites.

Conclusion

The Warwick District Council Publication Draft Local Plan: Focused Consultation document maintains the volume of employment land proposed during the Plan period and increases the volume of proposed housing land – this is supported by CWLEP. CWLEP would be happy to continue to work with Warwick District Council to ensure that land identified for housing and employment opportunities is brought forward for development as part of the implementation of the Local Plan. In particular the CWLEP is happy to assist with collaborative working across the sub region to achieve high quality outcomes for existing and future communities.