
Cabinet
Council

10 July 2012
24 July 2012

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (City Development) - Councillor Kelly

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of City Services & Development

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Warwick District Council New Local Plan Preferred Options consultation

Is this a key decision?

No

To respond to the Warwick District Council "New Local Plan Preferred Options" consultation.

Executive Summary:

Warwick District Council has published its "Preferred Options" Local Plan for consultation. This sets out land that it considers is suitable for development, and states which land is 'preferred' for development. It is considered that, in general terms, the Preferred Options can be supported, but two "potentially suitable" sites to the south of Westwood Heath, and to the east of Finham, should remain as undeveloped Green Belt land.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Recommend that the Council approve the response to Warwick District Council New Local Plan Preferred Options consultation, at Appendix 1

The Council is requested to:

- 2) Approve the response to Warwick District Council New Local Plan Preferred Options consultation, at Appendix 1

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: suggested response to the Warwick District Council New Local Plan Preferred Options consultation

Appendix 2: WDC's Map 2 – potentially suitable urban – edge of urban sites

Appendix 3: WDC's Map 3 – preferred options

Other useful background papers:

Warwick District Council New Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation, available to download at www.warwickdc.gov.uk/newlocalplan

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes

24 July 2012

Report title: Warwick District Council New Local Plan Preferred Options consultation

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Warwick District Council has published its Local Plan "Preferred Options" for consultation. This includes proposed site allocations to deliver growth, and some of these sites are currently undeveloped Green Belt land. It is considered that this is a matter for Warwick District Council as planning authority, and therefore no objection in principle to this is recommended.
- 1.2 The draft site allocations are shown on Map 3, which can be found at Appendix 3. It is not recommended that any comments be made with respect to this.
- 1.3 A map of "potentially suitable" sites includes some undeveloped Green Belt land immediately to the south of Westwood Heath, and east of Finham. Map 2 at Appendix 2 refers. It is recommended that the Council objects in principle to the possibility of development of these sites, because it is likely that the burden of servicing the infrastructure requirements of those developments would fall on the City Council in the medium term, but that the corresponding Council Tax revenues would be received by Warwick District Council.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 There are two realistic options available. The first of these is to remain silent, this was rejected because it is in the Council's interests to formally express its wish for the land south of Westwood Heath, and land to the east of Finham, that is identified as a "potentially suitable" site to remain as undeveloped land within the Green Belt.
- 2.2 The second option, which is recommended, is to formally respond in support of the Preferred Option, subject to the identified "potentially suitable" sites south of Westwood Heath and east of Finham remaining as undeveloped land in the Green Belt.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 There has been no consultation undertaken

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 The deadline for responses to the consultation is Friday 27th July 2012. It is intended that the response be sent as soon as practicable following the Council meeting of 24th July, on or before 27th July.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Legal Services

- 5.1 Financial implications

There are no costs for the Council, directly associated with this consultation or the recommendations in this report.

- 5.2 Legal implications

It is considered that responding to this consultation will assist both Warwick District and Coventry City Councils to demonstrate compliance with the Duty to Cooperate as set out in the Localism Act 2011, associated regulations, and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012

6. Other implications

There are no other specific implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

The Warwick Local Plan will contribute to a number of the City Council's core aims as follows:

- A prosperous Coventry: by working together to prepare an integrated development strategy to offer employment opportunities to local people, this is particularly the case for the Gateway scheme;
- Making Coventry an attractive and enjoyable place to be. Provided the "potentially suitable" land to the south of Westwood Heath, and the land to the east of Finham, remains undeveloped, the strategy does not significantly negatively impact on the quality or attractiveness of Coventry;
- Providing a good choice of housing. The Warwick Local Plan Preferred Option sets out a number of potential sites for new homes to be built, offering a choice that can be expected to be available to local people throughout the area; and
- Improving the environment and tackling climate change, by focussing new development in accessible and sustainable locations that minimise the need to travel.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

The key risk associated with the proposal is concerned with technicalities around the Duty to Cooperate. The current conventional wisdom is that the duty is to cooperate and not necessarily to agree with all aspects of a plan. By expressing general support subject to a single specific point, it is considered that the Council would be acting responsibly and would not be placing either the Coventry or the Warwick Core Strategy at risk.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

No direct impact.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

It is Warwick District Council's responsibility to complete an Equality Impact Assessment to inform its own Core Strategy.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The Warwick Local Plan will be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal, in accordance with relevant regulations, that will assess the environmental implications of the Preferred Options.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The recommended response to the consultation that appears at Appendix 1 asks Warwick District Council to retain the land south of Westwood Heath, and the land to the east of Finham, as undeveloped land within the Green Belt.

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HR: Jaz Bilen	HR Manager	Customer & Workforce Services	07-06-12	07-06-12
Director: Martin Yardley	Director of City Services & Development	CSDD		
Members: Cllr Kelly	Cabinet Member	City Development	13-06-12	13-06-12

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Appendices

Appendix 1: suggested response to the Warwick District Council New Local Plan Preferred Options consultation

Appendix 2: WDC's Map 2 – potentially suitable urban – edge of urban sites

Appendix 3: WDC's Map 3 – preferred options