
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	25th JANUARY 2018	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/ RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN/EXEMPT PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	KAREN BEAVIN karen.beavin@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	FUTURE OF LOCAL PLANNING	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS03

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To endorse continuing joint working with our Derby HMA partners, to explore the potential of an overarching joint strategy/plan, liaising where necessary with other neighbouring local authorities.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To inform Members of the increased emphasis from Government on joint planning across local authority boundaries and to seek endorsement of continued joint working across the Derby HMA and beyond.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 This report follows on from the two Government consultations published last year regarding the housing market and planning reforms. These consultations, brought to this Committee and Council respectively, were the housing white paper '*Fixing the broken housing market*' (published February 2017) and '*Planning for the right homes in the right places*' (published September 2017). The latter document set out proposed measures to reform the planning system, including a plan for more effective joint working through a statement of common ground that sets out how authorities intended to work together to meet housing needs.
- 3.2 Through its Planning Delivery Fund document (published December 2017) the Government states it wants to support greater collaboration between local planning authorities as well as a more strategic approach to planning for housing and infrastructure. Part of the Planning Delivery Fund is a Joint Working Fund, allocated specifically to enable more and better joint working because "Effective working across local authority boundaries is essential to plan for the delivery of housing, infrastructure and other strategic needs of communities; particularly where there is high housing pressure and areas are heavily constrained. Joint working is a statutory requirement under the duty to cooperate, introduced through the Localism Act in 2011".

- 3.4 The direction of travel therefore with regard to local plan making is towards a greater degree of joint working to plan strategically for housing growth, its delivery and the infrastructure required to support it.
- 3.5 The Derby Housing Market Area (HMA) comprising the administrative areas of Amber Valley Borough Council, Derby City Council and South Derbyshire District Council has been working collaboratively as an HMA since 2009. The *Statement on Continuing Joint Working on Key Strategic Issues between Amber Valley Borough Council, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council and South Derbyshire District Council - July 2013* was signed by all four authorities and submitted as evidence to the Local Plan Part 1 examination. This Statement sets out how the HMA approach “has provided the HMA authorities with the opportunity to address a number of cross-boundary, strategic issues, such as the scale and location of housing and employment land, transport, social infrastructure and Green Belt.” Having this HMA approach facilitated the compilation of a robust evidence base and enabled the Councils to meet their obligations under the Duty to Cooperate.
- 3.6 With the publication of the two consultation documents last year the Government appears to be ‘changing gear’ with regard to joint planning, increasing the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate and incentivising local authorities to cooperate to prepare plans to meet housing need and other strategic priorities for their areas across their authority boundaries. *Fixing our broken housing market* refers to producing a joint local plan as being an option under its ‘new framework for local plan making’.
- 3.7 There is a difference between joint planning and producing a joint local plan, but should the former clearly lead onto the latter for the Derby HMA authorities, then a mandate is sought from this Committee for those discussions to begin. Whilst our Local Plans Part 1 and Part 2 have only been adopted relatively recently, the Government’s expectation is that Local Plans will be reviewed every five years.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 A Local Plan for South Derbyshire is a key action within the Place theme of the Corporate Plan.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 Maintaining an up to date Local Plan is necessary to ensure that development across the District is achieved in a sustainable way, providing necessary infrastructure and community facilities for existing and new residents.

7.0 Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8.0 Appendices

- 8.1 None