

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

20th September 2012

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Watson (Chairman), Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Brown, Ford, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Patten and Stanton.

**Labour Group**

Councillors Chahal, Dunn, Mrs. Heath, Stuart, Taylor and Tilley.

**In attendance**

Councillors Harrison, Hewlett and Mrs. Plenderleith (Conservative Group) and Councillors Richards and Shepherd (Labour Group).

**MATTER DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

EDS/19. **LOCAL PLAN: PREFERRED GROWTH STRATEGY**

A report was submitted which requested endorsement of the publication of an informal "Preferred Growth Strategy" to 2028, for the purpose of undertaking public consultation and the establishment of a new Local Plan Officer/Member Working Group.

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) required local planning authorities to draw up a local plan promoting growth on the basis of objectively assessed development needs. With the anticipated demise of the East Midlands Regional Plan, the Council had commissioned an independent estimate of future housing needs. This was undertaken jointly with Amber Valley Borough Council and Derby City Council with whom the functional housing market was shared – the Derby Housing Market Area (HMA) under the new "Duty to Co-operate".

Given the strong relationship with Derby in particular, which had finite capacity to meet its own housing needs, it was important to undertake extensive public consultation on the amount and location of future growth, prior to finalising a formal draft "Publication Plan" next year.

A draft "Preferred Growth Strategy" was attached as an appendix to the report and proposed a total of 33,700 additional dwellings between 2008-2028, across the HMA (12,700 in South Derbyshire), and included a preliminary list of specific sites/broad locations for new housing. It was emphasised that the preferred list of sites was based on an incomplete evidence base, and more work was required in relation to transport modelling and school place planning in particular, and the strategy must therefore be regarded as a preliminary stage in formulating the draft Local Plan.

It was expected that a second phase of the process would need to take place to deal with smaller development sites.

It was proposed to undertake wide ranging public consultation between October and December 2012, of which details were included within the report. Amber Valley and Derby City Council were also proposing to undertake aligned consultations over the same period in their respective areas. In addition, it was further proposed to convene a Local Plan Officer/Member Working Group, giving the increasing complex detail involved in the emerging local plan.

Members expressed their thanks to the Officer for a very well presented report. However, there were concerns raised around sustainability of some of the proposed sites, particularly in relation to provision of education and transport, which were out of the control of the District Council. It was requested that additional consultation take place at Church Gresley, and clarification was provided of the timings of consultation planned for Swadlincote Market.

It was agreed that a Local Plan Officer/Member Working Group be convened with 3 representatives from each political group. Representatives nominated were Councillors Watson (Chairman), Murray and Mrs. Plenderleith (Conservative Group) and Councillors Taylor, Shepherd and Southerd (Labour Group).

**RESOLVED:-**

- 1) ***That the publication of the “Preferred Growth Strategy”, along the lines of that attached as an Appendix to the report, for the purpose of public consultation, be endorsed.***
- 2) ***That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee to prepare a public consultation version of the “Preferred Growth Strategy” and make any detailed changes necessary to ensure alignment of documents throughout the Derby Housing Market.***
- 3) ***That wide ranging public consultation be undertaken from October – mid December 2012, in accordance with the proposed arrangements as set out in an Appendix to the report.***
- 4) ***A Local Plan Officer/Member Working Group be convened, with 3 representatives from each group, to act as a sounding board on the detailed draft Local Plan as it emerges and to advise this Committee accordingly.***

(All Labour Group Members wished that it be recorded that they had voted against this recommendation).

P. WATSON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.35 p.m.