

**To: Members of the Local Development Framework
Sub-Committee**

**Councillors Reilly, Chambers, Clews, Lees, Osborne
and Smith**

**For the information of the other Members of the
Council**

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SUB-COMMITTEE

11 September 2019

The Local Development Framework Sub-Committee will meet in the Chamber, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone on Wednesday 11 September 2019 at 6.30 pm.

AGENDA

- 1 Evacuation Procedure.**
- 2 Apologies for Absence / Members away on official Council business.**
- 3 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**
- 4 Public Participation**

Up to twenty minutes will be set aside for members of the public to ask questions or to put their views to elected Members. Participants are restricted to five minutes each. If you wish to speak at the meeting please contact Democratic Services on 01827 719221 or email democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk.

5 Draft Terms of Reference for land east of Polesworth and Dordon (Site H7) – Report of the Chief Executive

Summary

This report brings Draft Terms of Reference for a Member Steering Group to guide strategic housing allocations. Initially this will be for Site H7 – Land east of Polesworth and Dordon.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

6 Warwickshire Draft Rail Strategy - Report of the Chief Executive

Summary

This report informs Members that Warwickshire County Council is currently consulting on a draft Warwickshire Rail Strategy 2019-2034 and comments are required by 20 September 2019.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

STEVE MAXEY
Chief Executive

For general enquiries please contact Democratic Services on 01827 719221 or via e-mail – democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk.

For enquiries about specific reports please contact the officer named in the report.

Agenda Item No 5

Local Development Framework Sub-Committee

11 September 2019

Report of the Chief Executive

Draft Terms of Reference for land east of Polesworth and Dordon (Site H7)

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report brings Draft Terms of Reference for a Member Steering Group to guide strategic housing allocations. Initially this will be for Site H7 – Land east of Polesworth and Dordon.

Recommendation to Executive Board

Comments on the Draft Terms of Reference be given to Executive Board.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with the relevant Members and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 As Members are aware there are some large, strategic housing allocations in the emerging Local Plan. It is important that the Borough Council proactively seeks their development but also that local views on how the sites are developed are incorporated into the design and final configuration of the sites. The aim is to ensure that place making is at the heart of the proposals as well as integration with the existing settlements.

Steering Group

- ... 3.2 Part of this process is to set up a Member Steering Group. Draft Terms of Reference are attached as Appendix A. It is proposed that the Steering Group has an advisory role.

- 3.3 The Draft Terms of Reference also includes the suggested membership of the Group.

4 **Other Strategic Allocations**

- 4.1 The following are other allocations where a similar approach could be taken:
- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| H1 and H2 | North-West Atherstone (1200 + 620) |
| H20 and RH2 | Land off Ansley Common (800 units) |

- 4.2 There is a current application for Site H13 - Land west of Robeys Lane and a Member's group already meets.

5 **Report Implications**

5.1 **Environment, Sustainability and Health Implications**

- 5.1.1 The Steering Groups will ensure that place making will be a key part of the development of the strategic allocations.

5.2 **Human Resources Implications**

- 5.2.1 The Forward Planning Team will administer the groups. Whilst the Local Plan is still in examination this may have some impact on the timings of the meetings but the benefits of the groups should assist to ensure that any future planning applications can be progressed at a faster pace.

6 **Links to Council's Priorities**

- 6.1 The implementation and delivery of the Local Plan is important in the delivery of the Council's priorities.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

Background Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date

Land East of Polesworth and Dordon (Site H7) Steering Group

Terms of Reference

Steering Group

The Steering Group will provide a member forum for pre-application presentations and discussions with appropriate briefings to ensure the delivery of the strategic housing allocation.

Role of the group:

The role of the Steering Group is to support the delivery of the strategic allocation site H7 by providing advice and guidance to the Borough Council, working with a range of partners, including the landowners, agents, and Parish Councils. The Steering Group will provide oversight and partner support for the delivery of the strategic housing allocation and associated infrastructure. It will also advise on community engagement. It will scrutinise the planning application and S106 (or other agreements) to ensure it complies with the agreed development principles / master plan.

The Steering Group will ensure that developers are supported, informed, and guided to deliver the highest quality developments that are possible, and challenged where appropriate to do so.

Membership:

Chairman of Planning and Development Board (Chair)	Mark Simpson
Chairman of the LDF sub-committee	Dave Reilly
Opposition spokesperson for LDF sub-committee	Jackie Chambers
Borough Council Ward Members x 3	(one from each of the following wards) Dordon - Jackie Chambers / Pete Morson Polesworth East - Adam Farrell / Dave Parsons Polesworth West - Simon Rose / Michael Osborne

Land East of Polesworth and Dordon (Site H7) Steering Group

County Ward Members (x 2)	Baddesley and Dordon - Andy Wright Polesworth - Dave Parsons
Polesworth and Dordon Parish Councils x 2	Representatives x 2

(10 members)

Supported by officers

Accountability:

- Any views from the group will be passed on to the Planning and Development Board, Executive Board or Growth Board.
- The Steering Group is not a decision making group

Review:

- The group will be reviewed on an annual basis or once a planning application has been submitted to assess its value

Meetings

- Meetings will take place on average every 8 weeks but this may be increased or reduced depending on the issues under consideration
- Meetings will normally be held at the Borough Council offices. Additional meetings, and meetings on site may also be arranged as necessary
- The meetings will involve discussion of key issues for the delivery of the site
- Agendas will normally be produced by the Borough Council, in agreement with the Chairman where necessary, and will be circulated by email. Agendas will identify the timing for discussions, and the proposals to be considered at each meeting. Steering Group Members may request items to be brought before them, and any reasonable requests will be met.
- Draft agendas will be circulated two weeks before the meeting with the formal agenda issued at least 3 working days before the meeting
- Papers, where possible, will be circulated at least three working days before the meeting will take place
- The draft minutes will be produced by Council officers and approved by the Chair (or vice-chair in their absence) before being circulated to other members. A vote to approve the minutes will be taken at the subsequent meeting.

Land East of Polesworth and Dordon (Site H7) Steering Group

- It will not be a public meeting but representatives of the local community may be invited as observers, except when commercially sensitive information is being discussed
- Other individuals and organisations (including representatives of the landowners, developers, Warwickshire County Council and statutory undertakers) will be invited to attend the meeting as and when required
- At least three members must be in attendance before the Steering Group may have a quorum. Any views made when there are fewer than three members present will be subject to further discussion at the next meeting.

Sharing of information and resources (including confidential materials)

- Due to the nature of the discussions there will be times that information will be shared which will be confidential. No information will be put into the public domain that relates to these matters.

Drafted: September 2019

Revised:

Agenda Item No 6

Local Development Framework Sub-committee

11 September 2019

Report of the Chief Executive

Warwickshire Draft Rail Strategy

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Members that Warwickshire County Council is currently consulting on a draft Warwickshire Rail Strategy 2019-2034 and comments are required by 20 September 2019.

Recommendation to Executive Board

That the comments set out in the report of the Chief Executive, together with any additional points made by Councillors, be submitted to Warwickshire County Council by 20 September 2019.

2 Introduction

... Attached as Appendix A is a report on the Warwickshire Draft Rail Strategy considered at the meeting of the Planning & Development Board meeting on 2 September. Additional comments were made by Members at that Board meeting and a summary of these are attached as Appendix B.
...

3 Consultation

Following consideration of the report of the Chief Executive by Members of the Planning and Development on 2 September, views are now sought from Members of LDF sub-Committee for submission to Warwickshire County Council.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

Agenda Item No 5

Planning and Development Board

2 September 2019

Report of the Chief Executive

Consultation on Draft Warwickshire Rail Strategy 2019- 2034

1 Summary

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council is consulting on a draft Warwickshire Rail Strategy 2019-2034. Comments are required by 20 September 2019. The report recommends a response to the consultation.

Recommendation to the Board

That the comments in the report be submitted to WCC by the closing date following further consideration at the LDF Sub-Committee.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with Councillors Simpson, Jarvis and Phillips. Any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 WCC has published for consultation Draft Warwickshire Rail Strategy 2019-2034 which sets out the County Council's ambitious and challenging plans to improve the rail offer in Warwickshire and will form part of the County's fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4). The draft strategy and other supporting documents can be downloaded at:
<https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/communities/draft-warwickshire-rail-strategy-2019-2034/>
- 3.2 The closing date for comments is 20 September 2019.
- 3.3 The County is seeking support for investment in the local rail network to help improve wider connectivity, contribute to the delivery of housing and employment opportunities and maximise the benefit of economic growth in Warwickshire over the next fifteen years and beyond. The Draft Rail Strategy has been developed to maximise the economic, social and environmental benefits of the rail network to Warwickshire's residents and businesses.

- 3.4 Four key overarching objectives have been identified to support the delivery of the Rail Strategy and policies have been developed to support the delivery of these objectives:
1. Maximise economic, social and environmental benefits of the rail network to Warwickshire residents and businesses;
 2. Maximise opportunities for journeys within Warwickshire (and beyond) to be undertaken by rail, particularly for commuting purposes;
 3. Maximise opportunities for travel demands of new developments to be met by rail;
 4. Support opportunities to transfer freight from road to rail.
- 3.5 These objectives are supported by 11 policies:
- WRS 1: Partnership
 - WRS 2: Existing levels of service & stations
 - WRS 3: New rail services & stations
 - WRS 4: New Developments & Connectivity to Rail Services
 - WRS 5: Transformational Change
 - WRS 6: Station Facilities
 - WRS 7: Station Access & Car Park Capacity
 - WRS 8: Community Rail Partnership
 - WRS 9: High Speed 2 (HS2)
 - WRS10: Freight
 - WRS11: Rail Fares & Ticketing
- Full details of these can be found on pages 16 to 20 of the consultation Draft Strategy.
- 3.6 The new Rail Strategy 2019-2034 will be a successor to the existing rail strategy, as contained in the Local Transport Plan 3.
- 3.7 Warwickshire is a growing County with a population of approximately 550,000 people, with up to 160,000 new homes committed in Local Plans across Warwickshire – the equivalent of a new town. This growth will place additional pressure on the existing rail services and infrastructure (e.g. access to stations) and present new connectivity opportunities. The County will seek to maximise in order to help secure infrastructure, service and capacity improvements.
- 3.8 As the train services and infrastructure are not restricted to the Warwickshire the County Council will engage with a variety of partners and stakeholders in order to realise the ambitions of the strategy. Warwickshire is looking to work closely with key partners, including Midlands Connect, West Midlands Rail Executive, Network Rail and the relevant Train Operating Companies in order to achieve the aspirations set out in the strategy.
- 3.9 Funding to enable the delivery of the Rail Strategy will be sought as appropriate, for example, via the Department for Transport's New Station Fund. The County Council will work with Partners, such as Midlands Connect to help secure funding for regionally significant interventions e.g. capacity upgrades.

Next Steps

- 3.10 It is expected that a final strategy will be taken to the County Council's Cabinet for consideration and approval. Full Council will then be asked to endorse the Strategy and it will then take effect as a non-statutory supplement to the Local Transport Plan 3. This is anticipated to happen by December 2019.

4 Observations

- 4.1 The Draft Rail Strategy proposes a number of new stations two of which are in North Warwickshire. The first is the long standing proposal of Kingsbury Station. Land has been safeguarded in the emerging Local Plan to the east of Kingsbury (Policy LP27). This carries forward the proposal in the 2006 Local Plan. The Borough Council supports this station being delivered.
- 4.2 The second is Polesworth Parkway. As Members know the current Polesworth Station has been only been kept open by the stopping of a train each work day on the northbound platform. This is known as a "parliamentary train" and basically keeps the station open as this is cheaper than formally closing the station.
- 4.3 Policy LP 27 of the emerging Local Plan seeks the station to be opened up fully. However, there is a need to carry out a feasibility study to ascertain whether the existing station could be used rather than replacing it with a new station somewhere else prior to a new location being explored. The exact location of a new station is yet to be determined if re-opening the current station is not possible or viable. Although the Borough Council supports the improvements the wording in the draft strategy needs to reflect this process rather than assuming that the best and only option is to relocate the Polesworth station to the south.
- 4.4 It is unclear at the present time the implications on changes to the lines in the Water Orton area on the number and frequency of trains to this station. However the Borough Council is pleased to see a policy on maintaining services to existing stations.
- 4.5 The Draft Rail Strategy is very light on Improvements to assist with freight movements. There is a need to improve the line to the east of Kingsbury to ensure that trains entering and leaving the EMR site do not have to cross over the lines. This also impacts on the trains going to Birch Coppice. A change in this area would enable more passenger trains to use the line as the crossing of trains across lines takes time out of the timetable.

5 Consultation Response

- 5.1 The report will also be considered by the LDF sub-committee which is due to meet on 11 September and Executive Board on 16 September. A composite response will be sent to incorporate all comments by the deadline of 20 September.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

Background Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date
1	WCC	Consultation Draft	July 19

Additional Comments by Members of the Planning and Development Board:

- 1 Policy WRS02:
 - i. Extremely important that no station is downgraded and that only improvements are made.
 - ii. It is important that Water Orton and Atherstone maintain the level of services.

- 2 Atherstone station:
 - i. Now used by many commuters
 - ii. It would adversely impact on the local economy if services were reduced. See many going to the Atherstone Industrial areas especially towards TNT and Aldi. Good for the high street too
 - iii. Getting from one platform to the other is poor
 - iv. Footbridge needs to be replaced
 - v. Disabled access is terrible – needs a DDA complaint bridge
 - vi. Signage into town is extremely poor – difficult to see the map in certain lights
 - vii. Underpass is flooded at times
 - viii. Board agreed that officers would investigate a study on the access improvements needed at Atherstone Station

- 2 Polesworth Parkway:
 - i. Do want improved services at Polesworth Station
 - ii. Concerns of passing traffic in Shuttington and Polesworth and the impact on the local community
 - iii. Need to have a notion of the location and scale of the new Polesworth Parkway

- 4 WRS4 New Developments and Connectivity to Rail Services
 - i. Support this policy

- 5 WRS7 Station Access and Car Park Capacity:
 - i. Car parking charging at stations is disappointing with no consultation. Needs to be supported by the right plan

- 6 WRS8 Community Rail Partnership:
 - i. would support a Rail users or Members group in the Borough
 - ii. Board agreed that Cllr Reilly to pursue involvement or to create a local group

- 7 WRS10 Freight:
 - i. there needs to be more work on the Rail Freight Strategy

- 8 The congestion charge will add to costs of travelling into Birmingham in a car so will impact on rail use within the Borough.