

NOTICE OF DELEGATION OF DECISION TO CABINET MEMBER BY STRONG LEADER

Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

I, J-P Campion, as Strong Leader, delegate the decisions Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth Consultation detailed in the Forward Plan to the Cabinet Member detailed below:

Cabinet Member: Councillor Anne Hingley

Dated: 3rd December 2013.



Signed:

Leader of the Council

NOTICE OF DECISION OF CABINET MEMBER

Pursuant Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by section 63 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

In accordance with the authority delegated to me by the Leader, I have made the following decision:

Subject	Decision	Reason for decision	Date for Decision to be taken
Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth	<p>The Cabinet Member for Place-Shaping is asked to decide that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft Consultation response to the Draft Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth as attached at Appendix A, be endorsed. • The Director of Economic Prosperity and Place be authorised to submit the consultation response to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership by 20th December 2013. 	To gain Cabinet Member approval for the consultation responses to be submitted on the Draft Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth.	6 th December 2013

I confirm that the appropriate statutory officer consultation has taken place with regard to this decision.

Dated: 5th December 2013
 Signed: Anne Hingley
 Councillor: ANNE HINGLEY
 Cabinet Member

To: Cabinet Member for Place Shaping, Councillor A Hingley

From: Mike Parker
Director of Economic Prosperity and Place

6th December 2013

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks endorsement of the response to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth Consultation. The response has been considered by members of the District Council's Local development Framework Review Panel and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member for Place-Shaping is asked to decide that:

- **The Draft Consultation response to the Draft Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth as attached at Appendix A, be endorsed.**
- **The Director of Economic Prosperity and Place be authorised to submit the consultation response to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership by 20th December 2013.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In February 2012, the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) launched its Planning Charter that reaffirmed the commitment of all nine Local Planning Authorities and partners to be proactive and supportive of business and investment. An initial mapping of existing Development Plans and an analysis of key trends across the LEP area was presented. A series of themed events were held in September 2012 and this was followed in early 2013 by a scenario testing phase which looked at five topics – shaping the economy, homes and communities, connectivity, sustainable living and environment and urban structure. Each theme group looked at drivers of change which have formed an important focus in developing the Spatial Plan's strategic policies and objectives.
- 3.2 The Strategy for Growth is the GBSLEP's economic plan which underpins all of the LEP's activities and objectives. The Strategy has a number of high level economically driven targets, including a net increase of at least 100,000 private sector jobs by 2020 and a net increase of at least £8.25 billion GVA by 2020. The SPRG will look at the scale, broad distribution and direction of growth and is intended to provide a strategic steer and coherence to the individual Development Plans that all districts are, by law, required to prepare. There is no intention that the preparation of the SPRG should undermine Local Plans that are at an advanced stage of preparation. The work will help inform and enable all local authorities to ensure their own plans are compliant with the Duty to Co-operate under the Localism Act.
- 3.3 The Draft SPRG has been published alongside a series of consultation questions and the consultation runs until the 20th December 2013. A consultation event for the three participating North Worcestershire authorities – Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and

Redditch, was held in Bromsgrove Council Chamber on 22nd November. The results of this consultation, alongside further technical research, will inform the next version of the SPRG. Officers have provided a draft response to the consultation questions which is attached to the report.

4. THE SPATIAL PLAN FOR RECOVERY AND GROWTH

4.1 Twelve key drivers of change apply across the LEP area. These have been important in scoping the coverage of the SPRG and are as follows:

1. Creating a place to do business, the economic imperative for growth.
2. Globalisation of trade and capital
3. Innovation
4. Population growth
5. Population change
6. Climate change (adaptation and mitigation)
7. GBSLEP centrality
8. Land scarcity
9. Public policy and opinion
10. Quality of life
11. Regulation
12. Civic and business leadership

4.2 The emerging plan has been informed by a number of key principles:

- Alignment: delivery of ambitions and priorities as set out in the GBSLEP Strategy for Growth.
- Sustainability: the environment and community need to be seen as integral assets for sustainable growth.
- Objectivity: facilitate and accommodate the objectively assessed requirements of both the growing and diversifying economy and population within the LEP area.
- Longevity: The plan will cover a 20 year time period
- Inclusivity: improving the quality of life for all a) the conurbation should meet an increasing share of the development needs it generates continuing the record of achievement in urban renaissance b) the specific needs of rural areas will also be addressed
- Consensus – the plan will assist in identifying sustainable locations beyond the conurbation to accommodate development requirements which cannot be met within it
- Global Connectivity –the benefits of Birmingham’s improving international standing will be explored to the benefit of the GBSLEP and its adjoining areas
- Diversity: celebrating the diversity of the area’s population and the places that make up the LEP area to realise the potential of everyone and everywhere.
- Existing opportunities: maximise the use of existing infrastructure and harness the benefits of new infrastructure

- Recycling of land: commitment to prioritising the recycling of land and property for development wherever practicable but also to recognise that in some circumstances new development will require a review of green belt boundaries.
- Environmental Impact: to include measures to adapt to climate change and the need to improve the environment
- Context: set the context but not pre determine the decision making of each individual local authority
- Evolution: an annual refresh to ensure the plan stays up to date and delivers investment opportunities
- Cross LEP working: working with adjoining LEPs and local authorities to accommodate growth in a sustainable manner and manage growth within the wider West Midlands.

4.3 There are three key elements of the SPRG:

- Part A – The Overarching Framework: Objectives and Strategic Policies
- Part B – The Spatial Diagram
- Part C – The Broad Scale and Distribution of Growth (this is dependent on the completion of further technical research)

4.4 A major component of the Spatial Plan will be to establish the broad scale and distribution of growth for both housing and employment sites including strategic employment sites and further joint research has been commissioned to inform this. While the scale of the future requirement remains to be determined the data highlights that existing emerging local plans should lead broadly to a tripling in the scale of sites currently committed. This represents a very considerable growth in activity but this may still leave a substantial shortfall of capacity that will need to be found from further reviews of Local Plans.

4.5 Preparatory work on identifying ways in which future growth might be accommodated identified ten different ways as a basis for future planning across the area.

1. Urban consolidation
2. Enterprise Belt (including the M42 Gateway)
3. New towns/settlements
4. Extend existing Major Urban Areas
5. Dispersed growth
6. Corridors of growth – rail
7. Corridors of growth – M6 Toll
8. Multi centred targeted approach (small towns outlying Birmingham)
9. Dormitory settlements
10. Accommodating some of the growth elsewhere.

4.6 Officers have set out initial views under each of these options in the draft consultation responses.

4.7 The Local Development Framework Review Panel considered the draft response at its meeting on 25th November. Members put forward some comments for inclusion.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 Following Cabinet Member approval, the response will be submitted on behalf of the District Council by 20th December 2013.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 A review of the Council's Adopted Core Strategy is due to commence in 2015 and this will need to reflect and be guided by the content of the SPRG.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

8.1 The SPRG will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal which incorporates policies relating to equalities.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 N/A.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 It is important to submit responses at this early stage to help shape the emerging plan. This will in turn influence the review of the District Council's Adopted Core Strategy. The Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth represents an informal way of working to help address Duty to Co-operate requirements across the GBSLEP area.

11. CONSULTEES

- Local Development Framework Review Panel.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Recommendations from Local Development Framework Review Panel (25th November 2013).
- Draft Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth (refer to the GBSLEP website for further information).

<http://centreofenterprise.com/strategic-spatial-framework-plan/>

- Draft Consultation Response to the Draft Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth.

Appendix 1

Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership

Draft Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth Consultation Responses

Wyre Forest District Council

The comments set out below are made on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council. These are largely general points on this first iteration of the Spatial Plan and we look forward to commenting on a more detailed version of the Plan in the future.

1. Rank the “Drivers of Change” (most important first)

- Creating a place to do business, the economic imperative for growth (1)
- Population growth (2)
- Population change (3)
- Quality of life (4)
- Climate change (adaptation and mitigation) (5)
- Land scarcity (6)
- Innovation (7)
- Public policy and opinion (8)
- Globalisation of trade and capital (9)
- Civic and business leadership (10)
- Regulation (11)

The figures above show an indicative response to this theoretical question. Some more detailed comments are set out below.

2. Add any comments on the “Drivers of Change” identified above and for the more detailed theme based listing in the full documentation.

As a general comment, it is important that the drivers of change are addressed holistically and therefore it is perhaps not helpful to separate them all out. This is a plan to assist recovery and growth and therefore the economic imperative for growth will obviously be the most important driver of change in this context. It is crucial to view Economic, Social and Environmental elements as interlinked – all contribute to recovery and growth and most importantly a sustainable plan.

The District Council considers that land scarcity particularly on brownfield sites within more historic settlements is an important driver for change.

The need for comprehensive infrastructure to support the economy, population growth and quality of life is a driver for change which has not been included. The economy cannot be improved without infrastructure improvements.

It is noted that globalisation of trade and capital is included, but that there is no driver relating to retail and the change in retailing habits, which have an impact on logistics and distribution. This will be very important for the GBSLEP's economy going forward and the impact on its commercial centres.

3. Taken as a whole, do you support the key principles of the emerging Spatial Plan we have identified.

Yes. The principles are a sound basis for the development of an inclusive plan. It would be helpful for these to be emphasised in the Sustainability Appraisal process so that they are integral within the Plan.

4. Rate the importance of the overarching principles of spatial planning we have identified.

The number at the end of each principle presents the District Council's views on the relative importance of each principle, with number 1 being the most important.

- 1) **Alignment** – delivery of ambitions and priorities for growth **(1)**
- 2) **Sustainability** – environment and community as integral assets for growth **(3)**
- 3) **Objectivity** – facilitate and accommodate objectively assessed needs **(9)**
- 4) **Longevity** – 20 year time period **(14)**
- 5) **Inclusivity** – improved quality of life for all responding to the market across the GBSLEP **(8)**
- 6) **Consensus** – assist in identifying sustainable locations beyond the conurbation **(4)**
- 7) **Global Connectivity** – benefits of Birmingham's international standing **(12)**
- 8) **Diversity** – celebrating diversity of the area's population and places **(10)**
- 9) **Existing Opportunities** – maximise opportunities from existing infrastructure **(5)**
- 10) **Recycling of Land** – commitment to recycling of land and property for development but recognition that green belt boundary review will be required **(6)**

- 11) **Environmental Impact** – adaptation to climate change **(7)**
- 12) **Context** – setting a context for individual Development Plans **(2)**
- 13) **Evolution** – annual refresh for an up to date plan **(13)**
- 14) **Cross LEP working** – working with adjoining LEPs and local authorities **(4)**

As a general point, it is considered that Principles 6) Consensus and 14) Cross LEP working are very similar and could be merged under one principle. These have therefore been given the same score for importance. With regard to principle 14 Cross LEP working, there are likely to be a number of issues arising from the current draft plan for the North Worcestershire districts (Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and Redditch). These districts are members of both the Worcestershire LEP and the GBSLEP. Unless co-ordination between the two LEPs is successfully maintained, contradictory demands and constraints could be placed on our local planning authorities, policy development and direction and other strategies such as infrastructure and economic growth plans. It will therefore be essential for the development of the Spatial Framework to continue to fully explore and consult on this principle.

Principles 4) and 13) are perhaps more technical issues for the plan than overarching principles that inform its content and are therefore more difficult to compare to the other principles.

With regard to principle 12 (Setting a context for individual Development Plans), this is considered to be central to the Plan's status and therefore it is has been given a high score with regard to its order of importance. The District Council would welcome clarity as to the envisaged status of the Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth; and its position within the planning system. It is considered that this needs to be made much clearer in the next iteration of the Plan to assist with Duty to Co-operate requirements.

5. Taken as a whole do you support the strategic objectives we have identified to meet the economic, social and environmental needs of the GBSLEP?

Generally all the strategic objectives are supported and they are all sound, although they are currently rather generic in nature and in order to develop sense of place they should perhaps be made a little more locally specific to the GBSLEP area. It is considered that they need to be listed within the plan itself as they are rather difficult to interpret in their current diagram format.

6. Taken as a whole do you support the strategic policies we have identified to meet the economic, social and environmental needs of the GBSLEP?

Yes. Although as above, these need to be made much clearer within the Plan. The diagram is rather complex for stakeholders and Members of the Public to interpret and therefore it may make it more difficult to engage with its vision. These policies are central to the Framework. There is also currently a tendency towards the use of jargon which needs to be made easier for a wider audience to interpret and understand.

Consideration should also be given to focussing these policies in the next stage of the framework to provide further guidance for individual Development Plans and future directions of growth.

As a general point policies should be developed subject to the evidence base and they also need to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal. Therefore we would expect to see a fine tuning of these policies in the next stage of the Plan. Key to this will be the relationship between economic and housing growth across the LEP area.

7. Ten possible ways to accommodate further growth (would like you to indicate whether you think each way of accommodating growth be used more, less or about the same as in current plans.)

Firstly it is assumed that “further growth” refers to the need to accommodate some of Birmingham’s housing needs outside of the city boundary. It will be very important to define what is meant by “further growth” within the Spatial Plan.

The District Council finds it difficult to comment on these points as each one needs to be informed by an evidence base and sustainability appraisal. We have however made some very general initial points below under each area.

1. Urban consolidation – there is a need to make the most of previously developed land and existing infrastructure within the GBSLEP area. It is considered that there is an immense amount of brownfield land within the Metropolitan area. Although this is subject to remediation issues, it needs to remain the focus for future sustainable development.
2. Enterprise belt including the M42 Gateway – it will be critical to maintain a balance to retain valuable employment sites which are well located in terms of the motorway network.

3. New Towns/Settlements – this is a very controversial approach, which requires substantial planning and a critical mass in order to make settlements sustainable.
4. Extend existing major urban areas – it is apparent that a Green Belt Boundary Review is likely to be required for the West Midlands area to accommodate further growth over the next 20 years, and that this may necessitate the need to implement Sustainable Urban Extensions.
5. Dispersed growth – this will need to be carefully looked at through the Sustainability Appraisal process. This could help with rural renaissance across the LEP area, but great care is needed so the urban renaissance strategy and role of the conurbation is not undermined.
6. Corridors of growth – this could present a more sustainable way to accommodate future growth, however it requires very careful planning to avoid ribbon development. Most importantly, substantial improvements will be required to rail infrastructure and public transport to avoid unnecessary car borne trip generation. The District Council is particularly concerned about the potential for ribbon development in relation to this strategy.
7. Corridors of growth – M6 Toll. Please refer to comments for 3) and 6).
8. Multi centred targeted approach (small towns outlying Birmingham) – please refer to the points set out under 5). Green Belt boundary review will also form a critical part of the evidence base to inform this approach
9. Dormitory settlements – as a general point this approach is unlikely to score well in Sustainability Appraisal terms.
10. Accommodating some of the growth elsewhere – the Cross LEP working principle is essential to this approach. However, it is difficult to see how this would meet the area's needs and bring benefits within the LEP. It could also be seen as pushing the problem out to neighbouring areas depending on defined Housing Market areas and patterns of commuting. It is considered that the linkages with the Black Country area warrant further investigation and should be fully taken into account in the development of the strategy.