

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
SPECIAL CABINET**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER  
30TH OCTOBER 2018 (6PM)**

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**Present:**

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), N J Desmond, C Rogers and J D Smith.

**Observers:**

Councillors: A Coleman, H E Dyke and F M Oborski MBE.

**CAB.39 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: I Hardiman and R J Vale.

The Leader of the Council announced that Councillor Vale had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the Local Plan and therefore had sent her apologies, and apologies had been received from Councillor Hardiman who unfortunately was unwell. The Leader added that, as Councillor Hardiman was the responsible Cabinet Member for the Local Plan, he would present the report on his behalf.

**CAB.40 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**CAB.41 Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication**

A report was considered from the Spatial Planning Manager which set out the next stage of the Local Plan Review, referred to as the Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Publication consultation. This was the final stage of consultation before submission of the Local Plan to Government. The Regulation 19 Local Plan had been taken to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> October for consideration. The Pre-Submission Publication document was shown in Appendix 1 of the report.

The report also set out the consultation responses received for the Local Plan Review Preferred Options consultation undertaken in summer 2017, and presented the draft Consultation Plan for the Pre-Submission Publication consultation to be held from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 until 5pm on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

The Leader of the Council presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

He said that this was the next stage of the journey of the review of the Local Plan which had started back in late 2015 with the Issues and Options consultation. He said the Preferred Options consultation outlined a

combination of Core sites and options A and B which gave two potential options for growth. He added that the consultation took place between 15<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017. He was pleased to report that it was a far reaching public consultation and over 5000 responses had been received. He said that it clearly demonstrated that, where there was an issue that affects us all, it does engage the district's residents.

The Leader of the Council said that the Pre-Submission document was a hybrid of the Core sites and some of the sites from the options A and B. He said that the administration believed that the authority should have a properly adopted Local Plan which was fit for purpose moving forward for the future, conformed with the Housing Need Study and demonstrated that there was a clear land supply.

He said it was regrettable that there had to be development in the green belt. However the strategic release of the land would enable two developments; one at the former Lea Castle hospital site and the other on land at Offmore to take place. He said the proposed developments would be part of a master plan which would create sustainable communities with all the necessary infrastructure they required. This would include a primary school, health and other community facilities on each site which would make the developments fit for purpose for generations to come.

He added that, in terms of affordable housing policy, the threshold number of dwellings for there to be a percentage of affordable housing was 10 and the proposed new level was a minimum of 25%. This was a viable and realistic target.

The Leader of the Council outlined a few minor typographical errors that would be corrected in the document before it formally went out for public consultation on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018. He said that there would be eight public drop-in sessions across the district which would be held during the consultation period and encouraged all Councillors, members of the public and stakeholders to attend any of the sessions to enable them to have their say on the plan.

The Cabinet Member for Resources seconded the recommendations. He said that it was absolutely right that we had an up-to-date adopted Local Plan so that the authority was in control of the planning process across the district, and was not subject to hostile planning applications which sought to develop in areas where the Council did not wish development to take place.

The Chairman of the Local Plans Review Panel, Councillor F M Oborski MBE, thanked the Spatial Planning Manager and her team for the fantastic job they had done in getting the Council to this stage in its Local Plan Review, and also thanked the Members of the Local Plans Review Panel for their hard work. Councillor Oborski said that she welcomed the news that the government had confirmed the standardised methodology for calculating housing need and was pleased that more brown field sites had been allocated to the Pre-Submission Plan which would result in only 2.1% of the green belt being released for development.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor H Dyke,

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said that she had attended all the meetings of the Local Plans Review Panel and acknowledged the amount of detailed work the Planning Policy Team Officers had undertaken to reach this point in the review process; she said they had all worked extremely hard. Councillor Dyke presented the recommendations from the Special Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting. She added that there had been a fantastic response to the Preferred Options consultation and hoped that residents would take part in the latest consultation.

**Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018;**

- a) The Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication documentation for public consultation (Regulation 19) be approved; and**
- b) The Preferred Options Consultation Responses be approved.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.37pm.