



## Wyre Forest District Council

### Record of a Council Decision delegated to be made by an Officer

This includes a record of an Executive Decision made by an officer under Regulation 13, Part 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

<b>Item decided:</b> To send the responses from the Main Modifications Local Plan consultation undertaken during October and November 2021 to the Planning Inspector for her consideration.	
<b>Officer who has taken the decision</b>	Mike Parker, Corporate Director; Economic Prosperity and Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Localism
<b>Date of the decision</b>	21/12/2021
<b>Reason for the decision/alternatives considered</b>	The Council is required to undertake consultation with statutory bodies and the general public regarding the Main Modifications to the Local Plan. The consultation has been undertaken during October and November 2021 and the responses will now be sent to the Planning Inspector to consider.
<b>Date and source of Delegated Decision (if appropriate)</b>	Cabinet on the 13 October 2021

<b>Council/Cabinet member consulted – if applicable</b>	Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Localism
<b>Any interest declared by the Consultee or officer</b>	None

## **Introduction**

1.1 This report sets out the responses received by Wyre Forest District Council to the consultation on the proposed main modifications to the Wyre Forest District Local Plan 2016-2036. The consultation ran from 9am Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October to 12pm Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The Council invited comments on 3 documents: -

- ED57 Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Submission version of the Wyre Forest District Local Plan (2016- 2036)
- ED58 Sustainability Appraisal of the Main Modifications to the Submission Wyre Forest District Local Plan (September 2021)
- ED59 Schedule of proposed changes to the Policies Map to reflect the proposed Main Modifications to the draft Local Plan (July 2021)

1.2 There have been 631 respondents to the consultation raising 5,625 representations in total. These included large numbers of generic comments relating to the proposed site at Low Habberley in the north of Kidderminster (556 individuals making 8 comments each) which can be found in Appendix 4. Some of these Low Habberley responses also included 4 additional comments relating to alternative sites in Kidderminster Town Centre (238 individuals) which can be found in Appendix 5. Some of those submitting the generic comments on Low Habberley also made additional comments of their own which are incorporated within Appendix 1 (ED57 responses) and/or 2 (ED58 responses).

1.3 Details of the full responses made by all respondents to this consultation can be found in the appendices to this report.

## **Comments received from Statutory Consultees**

2.1 Environment Agency support for amendments as previously set out in the Statement of Common Ground

2.2 Historic England support for proposed modifications

2.3 Homes England support proposed modifications regarding Lea Castle Village but request amendments to wording re 3G pitch provision to reflect recent discussions

2.4 National Highways propose additional changes to include reference to Infrastructure Delivery Plan in chapter 13.

2.5 Natural England support inclusion of reference to Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar site designation. Support clarification on Green Infrastructure requirements on brownfield sites. Welcome safeguarding of land for implementation of Burlish Country Park. Support findings of Sustainability Appraisal. Support for amendments to South Kidderminster Enterprise Park.

- 2.6 Sport England do not support creation of Country Park and the various developments proposed on the former Burlish Golf Course. Support for modifications relating to playing pitch requirement and site-specific requirements at Lea Castle and Kidderminster Eastern Extension. Suggests amendments to Health policy to retain reference to sport. Sport England maintain their objection to loss of playing fields at the former school site on Coniston Crescent. The reference to the artificial pitches at Stourport Sports Club is incorrect.
- 2.7 Canal & Rivers Trust object to the wording relating to establishing a need figure for houseboat dwellers as it does not reflect what was agreed.
- 2.8 Worcestershire County Council support revised Policy 9 on Health and main modifications to Chapter 16. Consider the minor modification proposed for Chapter 16 should be a main modification as it is required for soundness. An amendment is suggested to Policy 24B to strengthen it. Additional wording is suggested for the Sladen Site policy relating to the proposed school provision. Support for amendment to SKEP boundary.
- 2.9 West Mercia Police object to Strategic Infrastructure policy as emergency services are not listed.
- 2.10 Worcestershire Wildlife Trust support for new criteria vii of Policy 6B to protect from development areas that are sensitive because of their landscape, heritage assets or biodiversity.

### **Comments from Parish Councils**

- 3.1 Churchill and Blakedown – detailed objections in relation to proposed allocations at Station Yard for car parking and Station Drive for housing and station parking involving removal of land from the Green Belt. Objections lodged against MM7.1-7.6 Strategic Green Belt Review, MM36.5 Station Yard Blakedown and MM36.6 Land off Station Drive Blakedown.
- 3.2 Chaddesley Corbett – The Parish Council strongly objects to the allocation of the Fold Lane site for any scale or type of development in the Local Plan and urge the District Council to take account of representations from residents of Fold Lane.
- 3.3 Kidderminster Foreign – see below for generic response on Save Habberley Green Belt.

### **Save Habberley Green Belt**

- 4.1 A generic response outlining 8 objections around the residential allocation of land at Low Habberley was received from 556 individuals. Objections were lodged against MM3.1 Overall Sustainable Development Objectives, MM3.3 Plan Objectives, MM6.7 Spatial development Strategy, MM8.1 housing

density, MM9.3 health impacts of development, MM30.17 Low Habberley site policy (2 objections) and the Sustainability Appraisal (ED58) site analysis. These responses are detailed in Appendix 4.

4.2 238 respondents also made 4 additional comments relating to the redevelopment of Kidderminster Town Centre. MM30.6 (Lion Fields site) - residential redevelopment should be prioritised over other uses. The redevelopment of Timber Yard Park Lane for housing was supported but it was felt that this should be brought forward for redevelopment on Plan adoption and not delayed. These responses are detailed in Appendix 5.