

**SPECIAL MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE
ON REGENERATION, CULTURE AND
ADULT EDUCATION**

Monday 23 July 2007 at 6 pm
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor C Wilson (Chairman)
Councillor Mottram (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Jackson, Jones, Rahman, Ryder, K Turner, Tyler and
Woodall

Officers

Assistant Director Corporate Estate Services (Acting Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director Development and Environmental Protection, Principal Planning Policy Manager and Principal Planning Officer (Policy) (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property)

12 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Crumpton, Southall and Tomkinson and the Lead Officer to the Committee and Senior Assistant Director Directorate of Finance ICT and Procurement.

13 **SUBSTITUTE MEMBER**

It was reported that Councillor Ryder had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor Southall for this meeting of the Committee only.

14 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

15

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That, subject to the following amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th June 2007, be approved as a correct record and signed:-

the deletion of the word 'yards' in the fifth line of the first paragraph of Minute 6 and the substitution of the word 'feet' therefor.

16

PUBLIC FORUM

No matter was raised under this agenda item.

17

PRESENTATION ON A JOINT CORE STRATEGY FOR THE BLACK COUNTRY

Prior to the presentation to be given, the Chairman referred to documents that had been circulated at the meeting, comprising a booklet entitled 'A Joint Core Strategy for the Black Country June 2007 Issues and Options Consultation Paper', an Issues and Options Questionnaire and a leaflet entitled 'have your say on the issues and options facing the black country'. The Chairman also commented that the preparation of the Core Strategy was the first stage in the replacement of the Unitary Development Plans of the four Black Country local authorities of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton and that the Core Strategy was a 'spatial planning document', dealing not only with land use but also environmental, economic and social issues, that would set out the vision, objectives and strategy for future development in the Black Country up to 2026.

It was also noted that the Issues and Options Questionnaire and the response of this Committee needed to be completed and received by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, the lead authority in respect of the consultation, by Friday 10 August 2007. All Members of the Committee were requested, should they wish to do so, to fill in and return the questionnaire by the due date.

As part of the initial presentation given, Annette Roberts (Principal Planning Policy Manager) referred to a further document that had been circulated at the meeting, giving a comparison between the Unitary Development Plan and the Local Development framework. Under the Local Development Framework, it was noted that the Core Strategy set out overall strategy and this reflected Part One of the current Unitary Development Plan.

During the presentation given by Annette Roberts and Nicki Thomas (Principal Planning Officer Policy) reference was made to the purpose of the presentation to be given, which included a presentation of the issues and options that were currently being consulted upon; a timetable for consideration of a Joint Core Strategy for the Black Country, which it was noted had commenced in November 2006, and that, the current stage, that of consideration of Issues and Options had commenced this month; that, as part of the consultation on Issues and Options, this Committee was requested to consider a number of issues, reflected in the Issues and Options questionnaire, relating to Regeneration Corridors and the implications of the two options set out in the presentation document, circulated with the agenda for this meeting and questions relating to the Environment, the Economy, Strategic Centres, Community Facilities, Housing, Transport, Minerals and Waste. Reference was also made to other questions in the consultation document.

As part of the next steps in the process, all consultation responses received would be considered during August and September 2007, and these, together with any other issues and information, would form the basis of a report to Cabinet in December 2007, with a recommendation that public consultation on preferred options commence in January 2008. The timetable set out in the presentation document submitted envisaged an adoption date for a Joint Core Strategy of October, 2009.

Detailed consideration then ensued in respect of the questions raised in the presentation documents and by Members at the meeting and following that detailed consideration, together with responses given by the relevant Officers, it was:

RESOLVED

- (1) That the views as expressed by the Committee at this meeting as its response to the various Issues and Options identified in the presentation given, and in the documentation circulated at the meeting, in respect of a Joint Core Strategy for the Black Country, as part of the consultation process on these matters, be submitted to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, as lead authority on the consultation, by 10th August 2007, and that, prior to submission of the response, the Assistant Director Development and Environmental Protection be requested to send to the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman of this Committee a draft copy of the response.
- (2) That all Members of the Committee, should they wish to do so, be requested to submit individual responses to the questions contained in the Black Country Core Strategy: Issues and Options Questionnaire by the due date of 10th August 2007.

The Meeting ended at 8.35pm

CHAIRMAN