

Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education – 3rd November, 2010

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

The Black Country Joint Core Strategy update

Purpose of Report

To update Members of the select committee on the progress made on the Joint Core Strategy which has now reached an advanced stage.

Background

1. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, each Local Planning Authority is statutorily required to produce a Core Strategy as part of its Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy is to provide the strategic planning basis for all development in the Borough up to 2026 linking in with other Council Strategies and the Community Plan. Members will recall receiving earlier reports on the Joint Core Strategy in the early stages of its development. It has now reached an advanced stage.
2. The Joint Core Strategy will provide a more detailed planning strategy at the local level concentrating development in a network of strategic and town centres and the corridors interlinking them.
3. The Joint Core Strategy has been subject to an Examination In Public which was held in July 2010 during which issues surrounding development in the Black Country were debated in public. The Examination In Public was chaired by an Independent Inspector who prepares a report on the 'soundness' of the plan. If the Inspector finds the plan sound, the Local Authorities are able to adopt the core strategy as part of the development plan for the four Black Country Boroughs as a basis for strategic regeneration and development across the sub region.
4. At the time of writing this select committee report, the Inspectors Report is anticipated late October. Officers will update the committee verbally on the findings of the Inspectors Report.

Finance

5. The joint Core Strategy itself has been, and will be produced using existing budgets and resources dedicated to the production of Development Plan Documents and other such statutory planning documents.

Law

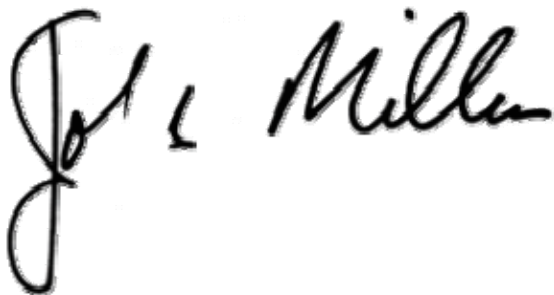
6. The production of a Core Strategy as a Development Plan Document is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
7. In addition, Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, allows the Council to do anything that it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic or environmental well-being of the area.

Equality Impact

9. The joint Core Strategy sets the planning framework for the development of the Borough, as well as the rest of the Black Country up to 2026. The Core Strategy will seek to ensure that sufficient homes, shops and employment, social, educational and recreational facilities are planned and provided for in that time to meet the needs of all communities and everyone within those communities. This will include meeting the needs of children and young people seeking to provide sufficient facilities within the Borough for them as well as having a positive effect for future generations.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that the contents of this report be noted.



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List of Background Papers

Joint Core Strategy submission document