

Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education
10th March 2011

Report of the Director of Urban Environment

Update on the progress of Brierley Hill Area Action Plan

Purpose of Report

1. To update Members of the Select Committee on the progress made on the Area Action Plan for Brierley Hill.

Background

2. The Council has been preparing an Area Action Plan for Brierley Hill since early 2007. This plan makes up part of the development plan for the Borough and deal specifically with Brierley Hill. The plan is the culmination of various consultation and engagement activities with Brierley Hill businesses and communities.
3. The plan was published in final form in November 2009 and was formally submitted to the Secretary of State in February 2010.
4. The Area Action Plan provides a detailed planning strategy at the local level, building on the work carried out previously in the Black Country Joint Core Strategy. The Area Action Plan sets out how the town can accommodate the development which is allocated in the centre, including for example the 65,000 sq m of retail development, 3,000 new homes, significant amounts of office development and infrastructure investment etc. The plan shows through the development of detailed development blocks how this development can be accommodated.
5. Following the submission of the document in February 2010, an Examination in Public by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State into the soundness of the document was held in December 2010 where interested parties were invited to discuss the issues relating to the strategy in public.
6. The report by the Independent Planning Inspector appointed to hear the examination is expected early March 2011, and Officers will update the committee of any findings and recommendations.

7. It is anticipated that the Area Action Plan will be adopted by the Council mid 2011.
8. Links to both the Black Country Joint Core Strategy and the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan are listed under under Back Ground Papers at the end of this report.

Finance

8. The Area Action Plan 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

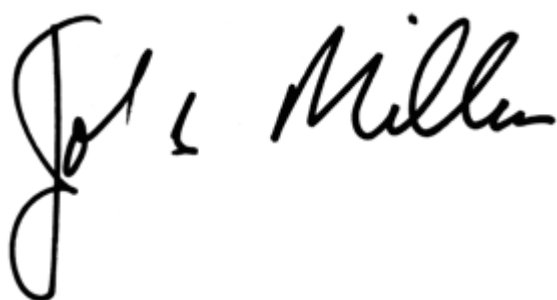
9. The production of a Area Action Plan as a Development Plan Document is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
10. In addition, Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, allows the Council to do anything that it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic or environmental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

Equality Impact

11. The Area Action Plan will set the planning framework for the development of the Brierley Hill, up to 2026. This will include meeting the needs of children and young people seeking to provide sufficient facilities within the town for them as well as having a positive effect for future generations.

Recommendation

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



.....
John Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

Contact Officer: Annette Roberts – Planning Policy Team
Telephone: 01384 814172

Email: annette.roberts@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Black Country Joint Core Strategy – available to view at
<http://blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk/>

Brierley Hill Area Action Plan – available to view at
<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/environment--planning/planning/planning-policy/local-development-framework/bhill-aap>