

## **COUNCIL**

**15 September 2009**

### **Report of the Portfolio Holder Economic Development & Enterprise Core Strategy Proposed Submission Consultation**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is for Members to consider a Core Strategy Proposed Submission document for consultation purposes.

The report is not a key decision.

#### **Report**

The Core Strategy is a key document that will set out the basic principles and policy direction for planning and development in Tamworth up to 2026 and which will be locally distinctive. It is part of a portfolio of documents that together will form the Local Development Framework for Tamworth. The LDF must deliver the spatial elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The Core Strategy reflects the Vision for the SCS and seeks to deliver the Priorities for Tamworth.

An important part of the process is the engagement of the public and stakeholders to inform the development of the Core Strategy. Last year an Issues and Options document was produced and consulted as was an Option Document at the beginning of this year, which have helped to inform the next stage of the process, a key part of which is continuous engagement. This approach is integral to the commitments made in respect of the current Local Development Scheme and the Statement of Community Involvement.

The purpose of this document (Appendix A) is to set out the Borough Council's proposed spatial strategy which it intends to take forward in the draft Core Strategy document. It sets out the 'vision' for the Core Strategy, the spatial objectives, how growth could be managed and Core Policies that supports the delivery of the Strategy. This is in a textual format at present to allow for any changes. The finished document will be appropriately formatted and will include diagrams and plans, photographs and questions for the public to consider.

The Issues and Options and Option Report consultations did not achieve consensus as to the most appropriate approach for Tamworth. The views expressed at these consultations, together with the evidence that has been produced have however informed the preparation of the proposed Core Strategy.

The proposed Core Strategy covers a range of topic areas, including housing, employment, green spaces, biodiversity, leisure and shopping. It is considered

that it is the most appropriate way of achieving the Vision and Objectives. The key driver to the Core Strategy is the regeneration of the Town Centre as a focus of activities at the heart of the town. The provision of new retail, employment and learning and skills facilities in and around the town centre will improve the physical and economic environment of the town. Anker Valley is proposed as a strategic housing site to provide a significant number of new housing due to its sustainability advantages, its proximity to key trip destinations such as the town centre, the proposed Academy and the railway station. Development in the Anker Valley will also provide the opportunity for improvements to sustainable access to these key trip destinations for larger parts of the town through the provision of the Anker Valley Link Road.

The Core Strategy Proposed Submission document will ask a number of questions for consultees to respond to and to help consultees a summary document will be prepared. It will be subject to a 6 week public consultation period, starting on the 2nd October. It is planned to have manned exhibitions during the period at a number of locations throughout the town. There will also be a permanent exhibition in the reception area of Marmion House and also at the library. Meetings and presentations will also be given to individual groups. The consultation period will be publicised widely and the document will be available online. In addition the opportunity is also being given for comments to be made with respect to the Evidence Base and a number of supporting documents that inform the development of the Core Strategy, which will be an important test of the Strategy's soundness. All responses will be analysed and reported back to Members to inform the development of a Draft Core Strategy for Publication in January 2010.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report other than publication costs which are covered by existing budgets.

### **Policy, Capital & Revenue Budget Background**

There are no policy, capital or revenue budget issues arising from this report.

### **Implications of this report**

There are no legislative or service delivery implications arising from this report and no associated risks arising directly from the report.

### **Recommendation**

- 1. That the Core Strategy Option Document is approved for consultation purposes over a six week period, together with the associated evidence documents, commencing 2nd October 2009.**
- 2. That the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Enterprise is delegated to approve the final version of the Strategy prior to consultation.**

*If Members would like further information or clarification prior to the meeting please contact Matthew Bowers Ext. 279.*

<i>Background Papers</i>	<i>The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004</i>
	<i>Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks and associated Companion Guide</i>
	<i>Statement of Community Involvement</i>
	<i>Local Development Scheme</i>
	<i>Tamworth Core Strategy Issues and Options Report March 2008</i>
	<i>Tamworth Core Strategy Option Report 2009</i>