

DRAFT Notes of a meeting of the Local Plan Review Working Party held in the Annexe, College House on Monday 9th December 2019 at 4pm

Present: Councillors S Barlow, D Cooper and Dr C Dyson (Chairman).
In attendance: Councillor K Hurst-Knight.
Apologies: Councillors Dr J Buckley and R Whittle OBE. Lee Jakeman.

1 Minutes and actions from previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2019 were approved. All actions have been completed.

2 Town Plan Steering Group

Progress was reviewed. The Consultation Document has been approved by the Steering Group and noted by the Town Council, which has also supported the submission in general terms and its general thrust.

An on-line survey has been developed and will be publicised shortly, via a leaflet to be distributed to all households and dwellings in the settlement. A paper copy of the survey will be available for collection.

3 Potential revised Town Council submission

The Town Council, at its meeting on Tuesday 3rd December, had agreed to make a (revised) corporate response to the Local Plan Review (LPR), taking into account matters arising from the work of the Steering Group. A tentative draft response had been circulated prior to the meeting for consideration.

Key aspects of the draft response were:

- That enough, or nearly enough, employment land has already been allocated in the current Local Plan to meet the growth in jobs implied by the LPR. The additional 16 ha envisaged in the LPR is not required. It was noted that the LPR acknowledges that this is additional to requirements, without making it clear why it has been included. It was agreed that we should object to the additional 16 ha.
- That there is little evidence of demand for employment land on the scale envisaged in the LPR.
- That the LPR is based on 'balanced growth', with about 1 job being created for each new dwelling. It was agreed that the LPR working group recommend that a more prudent estimate for the rate of growth in jobs in the settlement is appropriate, at least until a faster rate of growth is demonstrated.
- That, therefore, a lower rate of growth in the number of dwellings in the settlement, than that envisaged in the LPR, be proposed in the Town Council's updated corporate response. An increase of 800 to 1,000 dwellings should be proposed, rather than the increase of 1,500 envisaged in the LPR. This can be reviewed in 5 years' time, during the next LPR, in light of the rate of growth in local jobs.

David Cooper commented that it was unfortunate that the Town Council needed to make a response on the LPR before the results of the ongoing survey being carried out by the Steering Group were available. A statement in the corporate response should be made to the effect that the Town Council will review its response again, in the light of results from the survey.

It was agreed that the LPR working group should progress an updated corporate response for consideration by the Town Council, for submission to Shropshire Council.

Subsequent note: Following advice from the Town Clerk, the Chairman will revise the draft considered at the meeting and circulate it to members of the working group. Members are asked to respond quickly so that the proposed corporate response can be considered at the Town Council meeting on 17th December and submitted in time to influence the release of proposals for the Local Plan Review by Shropshire Council, which is currently expected to be published in March 2020.

The meeting closed at 5.10 pm.

4 Date of next meeting

Clive Dyson will arrange the next meeting towards the end of January.

Cllr. Clive Dyson - Working Group Chair