

NOTICE OF DELEGATION OF DECISION TO CABINET MEMBER BY STRONG LEADER

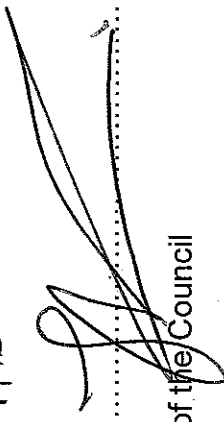
Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

I, J-P Champion, as Strong Leader, delegate the decision to approve the responses for the South Worcestershire Development Plan – Proposed Significant Changes detailed in the Forward Plan to the Cabinet Member/Officer detailed below:

Cabinet Member Councillor Julian Phillips

Dated: 14 | 9 | 12

Signed:



Leader of the Council

NOTICE OF DECISION OF CABINET MEMBER

Pursuant Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by section 63 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

In accordance with the authority delegated to me by the Leader, I have made the following decision:

Subject	Decision	Reason for decision	Date for Decision to be taken
South Worcestershire Development Plan – Significant Changes Consultation	To approve the responses as recommended by Overview and Scrutiny at their meeting on 6 th September 2012.	To facilitate cross-boundary working in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate.	Before 14 th September 2012

I confirm that the appropriate statutory officer consultation has taken place with regard to this decision.

Dated: 17th September 2012
 Signed: JAC PHILIPS
 Councillor: JULIAN PHILIPS
 Cabinet Member

To: Cabinet Member for Place Shaping, Councillor J Phillips

From: Mike Parker
Director of Economic Prosperity and Place

28th August 2012

South Worcestershire Development Plan – Proposed Significant Changes Consultation

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the approval of the Cabinet Member for Place Shaping to submit the representations set out at Appendix 1 in response to the South Worcestershire Development Plan – Proposed Significant Changes consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member for Place Shaping is asked to AGREE:

- 2.1 **That the response set out at Appendix 1 to this report be submitted to the South Worcestershire Authorities as the District Council's representations on the South Worcestershire Development Plan – Proposed Significant Changes Consultation.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member for Place Shaping will recall that representations in response to the South Worcestershire Preferred Options Paper were agreed by the LDF Panel at its meeting on 12th October 2011 and subsequently endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet at their meetings on 3rd November and 22nd November respectively.
- 3.2 The South Worcestershire Authorities have now published details of how the representations received at the Preferred Options stage have been addressed. The Preferred Options consultation last autumn led to over 2,000 individual representations from individuals, local communities, developers and service providers, which in turn generated over 10,000 responses. A further targeted consultation on 'Significant Changes to the Emerging SWDP' is taking place between 6th August and 14th September 2012. This consultation only relates to the specific issues outlined within the 'Proposed Significant Changes' consultation document and was not an opportunity to re-open other issues.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 This section outlines the key changes which are of significance to Wyre Forest District. Perhaps the most significant change is an increase in the overall housing numbers for the SWDP area to 23,000. This increase has come about as a result of the updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment which was

published in February 2012. The publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has also had an impact on the SWDP and a number of additional policies have been added to cover policy gaps emerging as a result of the move from the system of PPGs and PPSs to the NPPF.

- 4.2 A number of changes have been made in relation to settlements which relate to the comments previously submitted. Firstly, an additional employment site has been identified within Droitwich at Stonebridge Cross. This site lies to the North of Droitwich and is a 10ha site. It had originally been excluded on the basis that development here would have a detrimental impact on Westwood House and its parkland setting. However, these objections have been withdrawn and it is now proposed that the site is allocated to help meet the employment land requirements for the plan period.
- 4.3 Proposals for Clows Top village are of particular concern to Wyre Forest District. Clows Top village has been re-assessed and is now considered to be a category 2, rather than a category 3 settlement because it has a village hall. The Cabinet Member for Place Shaping may recall that land at Highbrae was previously proposed to accommodate 25 dwellings. Wyre Forest District's own Site Allocations and Policies Publication DPD includes a site within the village and the development of both this site and the site proposed within the South Worcestershire Development Plan would represent over development within the village and put a strain on the existing infrastructure. The key changes include a reduction in the number of units on the site within the South Worcestershire Development Plan from 25 to 17 on the grounds of scale and impact on the character of the village. The responses to the representations also clarify that no drainage or sewerage issues have been identified and that no overriding concerns have been identified by the County Council.
- 4.4 Members previously raised concerns relating to the level of development at Abberley Common and Great Witley and the impact that this would have on infrastructure and services within Stourport-on-Severn. One of the sites identified within the village of Abberley Common is now identified to deliver 10 units rather than the 27 it was initially expected to deliver. This takes the overall level of development in Abberley Common from 33 dwellings to 16. In Great Witley the level of development has been reduced from 35 units to 23 units. The reason for a reduction in the allocations within both Abberley Common and Great Witley is again related to scale and impact on the character of the villages. These reduced allocations will reduce the impact which new development has on service and infrastructure delivery in Stourport-on-Severn.
- 4.5 The NPPF changes the policy approach to windfalls at the national level. PPS3 did not allow windfalls to be taken into account within the first 10 years of the plan period, however, the NPPF does not preclude windfalls being included within the first 10 years and as such, the South Worcestershire authorities have assumed an element of windfall development based on previous delivery rates. A new policy has been inserted into the document relating to new housing in category 1, 2, and 3 settlements which will allow windfalls within the settlement boundaries and will allow new residential development identified through

Neighbourhood Development Plans and Community Right to Build Orders. This could lead to small-scale growth within these settlements.

- 4.6 The Roxel site which straddles the District boundary is currently allocated as Green Belt within Wychavon District and as employment land within Wyre Forest District. As part of the proposed changes to the Preferred Options, the South Worcestershire Development Plan proposes taking the part of the site which falls within Wychavon District out of the Green Belt. This would mean a consistent policy approach is taken by both Districts.
- 4.7 Changes have also been made to the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople policy. Further work is now being undertaken to identify some small sites (up to 10 pitches) on some strategic sites including urban extensions within Malvern Hills District and Worcester City. Malvern Hills will also now prepare a separate Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations DPD to address provision post 2012.
- 4.8 The timescale for developing the plan has also been amended and the Publication version is now expected in November 2012 with Adoption anticipated in December 2013.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications to the Council arising out of this report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The recommended policy responses are in accordance with the Council's established priorities.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The South Worcestershire Authorities will be required to undertake Equality Impact Assessment on the South Worcestershire Development Plan.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The representation made on the SWDP preferred options have now been considered and an additional consultation period is taking place to allow representations to be made on the changes arising. Wyre Forest District Council shares a boundary with both Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils and as such it is imperative that the District consider the implications of the SWDP on the Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework. The representations suggested relate to cross-boundary issues and help to meet the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate.

10. CONSULTEES

10.1 None

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- South Worcestershire Development Plan – Proposed Significant Changes Consultation - <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/SignificantChangesConsultationDocument1.pdf>