

Meeting: Economic Partnership
Date: 10th January 2012
Subject: Update on Core Strategy Progress and Timescales
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1. Recommendations.

The Partnership is asked to:-

- 1.1 Note the progress on Bromley's Core Strategy. In particular the response to consultation on the Core Strategy Issues Document and also note the potential impact of national planning policy reforms.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Partnership has been kept advised of the progress in preparing Bromley's Local Development Framework (LDF) - a suite of documents guiding the development of the Borough. Core Strategies are key borough-wide documents within LDFs, setting out the vision and objectives for the Borough and identifying area issues and strategic themes.
- 2.2 The Partnership has been asked previously for views on engaging the business community in the consultation process for the Core Strategy and endorsed the use of the business e-bulletin (sent to over 2,500 email addresses). Updates on the Core Strategy are reported to the Partnership on a regular basis.
- 2.3 Consultation on the Core Strategy Issues Document was undertaken between July and the beginning of October 2011. The consultation was not a statutory or formal consultation but formed part of the 'front loading' engagement process required by Government regulations and policy. The aim was to increase participation and reduce the level of objections and resources required at later stages of the plan making process.
- 2.4 Over 100 individuals and organisations responded to the consultation document making over 625 comments in total. The consultation responses were analysed and reported to the Council's Development Control Committee on 17th November 2011. The full Committee report is available at:
<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=3733&Ver=4>
- 2.5 Key issues of particular interest to the Partnership arising from the consultation which will require further evidence and consideration as part of the next stage of the plan-making progress include:
- Business Areas - The GLA and Outer London Commission recognise that Bromley and similar areas have underperformed economically, in part due to lower levels of investment at the strategic level. The Council's aspirations and plans, in particular, for Bromley Town Centre aim to address this. A strong and robust local economy is central

to maintaining and improving the quality of life of residents. The Planning Policy team are currently undertaking research and analysis into the range of commercial floorspace in the Borough's Business Areas in order to inform policy on the protection and retention of employment land. This will include examining GLA future employment forecasts and demand for commercial floorspace in the short, medium and longer term.

- Biggin Hill - Identified as a Strategic Outer London Development Centre in the London Plan, the intention is to ensure that proposals for the business areas are integral to the overall ambitions for the borough and this will be part of the next stage of the plan making process.
- Housing Targets and Capacity - The Council was successful in securing a lower housing target than the draft London Plan proposed for the borough demonstrating issues of capacity on existing sites. Priorities of protecting and respecting the character of the different residential areas within the borough will impact on acceptable levels of density and further work will be required to ensure the borough's aspirations are secured.

2.6 Following consideration of the responses to the Core Strategy Issues Document consultation by the LDF Advisory Panel and Development Control Committee, further work will be undertaken to review options and be brought back to Members for consideration. The Partnership will be kept advised of the progress and consulted as appropriate.

2.7 During Bromley's consultation period the Government also consulted on its draft National Planning Policy Framework. This has also been brought to the attention of the Economic Partnership. The Government's final proposals are expected by April 2012 and are expected to include the reference made in the draft to Local Plans rather than LDFs and Core Strategies. The intention is that the work undertaken for the Core Strategy will be incorporated in any broader Local Plan if required under planning reform.

3. Timetable

3.1 Next Steps/Timescale

Nov 2011 – Spring 2012

- Review of Options for Key Issues and Identification of Preferred Options
- Identify UDP Policies for continuation in new plan
- Assessment of London Plan policies and general conformity issues
- Identification of 'lost' national policies to consider for inclusion

Spring 2012

- Draft Preferred Options for LDFAP and DC to consider March 2012

Spring 2012

- New national planning policy and legislation in place

Spring/Summer 2012

- Public Consultation on 'Preferred Options and Draft Outline Plan'