

# BROMLEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

**Meeting:** Economic Partnership  
**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
**Subject:** Local Development Framework and Planning Policy Update  
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## 1. Recommendations.

The Partnership is asked to:-

- 1.1 Note the consultation process and timescale for the Core Strategy Issues Document.
- 1.2. Note the planning policy update.

## 2. Developing Bromley's Core Strategy – consultation on the Core Strategy Issues Document

- 2.1 The Partnership has been kept advised of the progress in preparing Bromley's Local Development Framework. This is a suite of documents guiding the development of the Borough. Recently adopted documents include the Bromley Town Centre Area Action Plan and the Supplementary Planning Document on Planning Obligations. The Core Strategy will be the key borough-wide document within the LDF. The Core Strategy Issues Document sets out the vision and objectives for the Borough and identifies area issues and strategic themes. These have been developed from Bromley 2020, the Sustainable Community Strategy, with the Core Strategy referred to in government guidance as the 'spatial expression of the community strategy'.
- 2.2 The Partnership has been asked previously for views on engaging the business community in the consultation process for the Core Strategy with the use of the business e-bulletin (sent to over 2,500 email addresses) and continued updates to the Economic Partnership endorsed.
- 2.3 The Core Strategy Issues Document is available at [www.bromley.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/ldf) and will be available to comment on-line until the end of September 2011. The July and September business e-bulletins will include a link to the consultation and encourage responses from the business community. In addition copies will be available in Bromley libraries and other opportunities for consultation with the wider community include a presentation to the Residents Federation meeting in July.
- 2.4 The responses to the consultation will be analysed and reported to the Council in the Autumn and will inform the next stage in the preparation of the Core Strategy.

## 2.5 **Planning Policy Update**

- 2.6 The Coalition Government has published a range of policy related documents, including the Localism Bill which is with the House of Lords and entering its final stage. This sets out among other proposals the potential for Neighbourhood Plans (below local authority level), and Neighbourhood Development Orders together with other changes to the planning system including enforcement and the regulations for the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 2.7 Government consultation on the ability to change the use of industrial buildings to residential without requiring planning permission has just closed. The Council and London Councils both raised objections to the proposals. A copy of the suggested response endorsed by the Council's Development Control Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> June is attached as Appendix 1 for information. The government has just launched further consultation on the relaxation of changes between use classes, so that planning permission is not required. It is also expected that later this month the Government will issue a consultation document on a new national planning framework.
- 2.8 The Panel's report following the Examination in Public last year into the Mayor's draft replacement London Plan has been issued and the Mayor's response. This is now awaiting direction from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
- 2.9 In addition the Mayor has issued consultation on his Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which sets out proposed levels of charges on development in London. Boroughs fall within one of three bands (based on the level of benefit which the GLA have attributed to the borough from the introduction of Cross Rail) which local authorities are allocated. Exemptions to the CIL include education and health institutions. Bromley has made objections to the Mayor's CIL, in particular seeking clarity as to the basis on which the benefit to the Bromley has been calculated.

## 2.10 **Core strategy – priorities for business, employment and town centres**

- 2.11 Within the draft consultation document for the Core Strategy are a number of priorities which touch upon business, employment and town centre issues and potentially cross over with the priorities of the Economic Partnership. These are set out below.
- 2.12 Business and employment vision and objectives

Bromley is a prosperous, thriving and skilled borough where businesses choose to locate. New businesses start up and grow using local skills, supply chains and investment and Business Areas offer high quality flexible accommodation. There is an improved range of employment opportunities for residents and skills levels have been raised.

Objectives:

- Encourage investment and development in the local economy. Business Areas adapt successfully to the changing needs of modern industry and commerce.
- Ensure there are an appropriate range of premises across the borough.
- Encourage an adequate supply of commercial land in the borough.
- Encourage and support the provision of training across the borough.

## 2.13 Town Centres vision and objectives

Town centres provide a range of goods and services and are safe, clean and welcoming for all. Bromley Town Centre is a competitive Metropolitan Town Centre, complementing others in the region and attracting a wide range of visitors to its shopping, cinema, theatre and restaurant areas. The vision for Orpington recognises the town centre's role as a strong and vibrant local centre, offering a good range of shopping, leisure and public amenities. The improvement of its image and appearance and adding to its retail offer are vital to achieving this aim.

Objectives:

- Ensure continued vitality of Bromley Town Centre, in particular, through implementation of the Area Action Plan.
- Promote and facilitate the continued improvement of Orpington Town Centre.
- Maintain and improve other local centres across the borough.
- Encourage a safe and prosperous evening economy.

2.14 Further detail on the strategic issues identified through the Core Strategy can be found in the chapter on 'Working in Bromley' in the draft Core Strategy consultation document, copies of which will be made available at the Economic Partnership meeting on 12 July 2011.