

**SPECIAL PLANNING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -  
3 APRIL 2008**

*Councillor A J Perkins (Chairman)*

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:-

Mrs F Beatty

H Butter

B M Cross

J S Francis

A S Harp

M T Millichap

J A Russell

W R Simpson

Councillor W D Davis (Cabinet Member - Planning and Regeneration Portfolio)

Also present - Councillors I F J K Jennings and K S Williamson

**PRS46 MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2008, submitted and signed.

**PRS47 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C E Simpson, and Mr Ian Thompson, Executive Director Community Services.

**PRS48 WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY PHASE TWO REVISION DRAFT SUBMISSION - EXTENSION TO THE FORMAL CONSULTATION PERIOD**

Considered the report of the Head of Planning and Engineering (V3 14/03/08).

It was noted that the Regional Spatial Strategy document was still out for consultation, and that this period had been extended.

Concern was expressed about the potential impact on the LDF Delivery Programme.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the report be noted.

**PRS49 STAFFORD BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EVIDENCE-BASE - PROGRESS UPDATE**

Considered the report of the Head of Planning and Engineering (V1 05/03/08).

The list of technical studies in production by the Council was highlighted to Members. In addition ongoing discussions with key stakeholders were taking place to support the evidence base and future work on the LDF implementation strategy.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the progress of the evidence-based work be noted.

**PRS50 UPDATE ON CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING SYSTEM  
STREAMLINING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS**

Considered the report of the Head of Planning and Engineering (V1 05/03/08). It was noted that the new regulations and changes to the Development Planning System had been delayed until at least May 2008.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the update detailed proposed changes to the national planning system be noted.

**PRS51 STAFFORD BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE  
STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT - ISSUES AND  
OPTIONS**

Considered the report of the Head of Planning and Engineering (V1 19/03/08) and the three volumes of representations circulated with the Agenda.

The Head of Planning and Engineering outlined the Committees role in considering the consultation received, and noted the difficulties in summarising the responses, as no general consensus was forthcoming.

However there was support for Stafford town being the main focus for development.

Continuing, Members went on to discuss the following issues arising from consideration of the responses:-

- Improvement to infrastructure (prior to any development);
- Affordable housing (particularly in rural areas);
- Transport issues (integration of rail/bus services, park and ride schemes);
- West Coast Main Line upgrading (impact on Stafford Station);
- Eastern Distributor Road;
- General acceptance of Stafford as the main focus for development;
- Green infrastructure;
- Loss of services and facilities in the rural areas.

Members concluded that if Stafford was to deliver significant growth, it was vital that a programme for funding and delivery of infrastructure to support

that growth was forthcoming. This would include central government, developer and local transport plan funding and programmes.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the responses within the Schedule of Representations be noted for consideration at a future meeting in conjunction with the forthcoming Delivering the Development Strategy document.

The Executive Director, Corporate Resources, declared a personal interest in this item and remained in the room during consideration of the report.

*Proceedings commenced at 4.30 pm and terminated at 5.15 pm.*