

**24 March 2015**

## **Ordinary Council**

### **Strategic Growth Options Consultation: Initial Findings Presentation**

*Report of:* Gordon Glenday, Head of Planning

*Wards Affected:* All

*This report is:* Public

#### **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 As part of preparing its new Local Plan, the Council agreed to consult on Strategic Growth Options at the meeting of Ordinary Council on 10 December 2014.
- 1.2 The Strategic Growth Options Consultation took place for six weeks until 17 February 2015. A summary of some of the initial findings from representations input onto the Council's consultation software so far are to be presented to Members in order to share information as soon as possible.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Members note the initial findings so far and await more detailed analysis as part of Local Plan preparation in due course.**

#### **3. Introduction and Background**

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to produce a Local Plan for their area (Paragraph 153). Brentwood Borough Council is in the process of producing a new Local Plan and has undertaken various stages of consultation as part of the plan making process.
- 3.2 The most recent consultation was on Strategic Growth Options (January 2015). The consultation document provided an overview of the main issues to be considered as part of the Plan and set out all potential sites put forward to the Council to date for housing, employment and retail.

- 3.3 Public consultation as part of the plan making process provides opportunities for the public and stakeholders to submit their views, which are taken into consideration when preparing the Local Plan.
- 3.4 All representations made in response to the Strategic Growth Options Consultation are currently being input onto specialist planning consultation software. Representations will then be analysed and a response to each made, ensuring that comments inform the production of the next iteration of the plan; the Draft Plan.
- 3.5 In the meantime, it is possible to gain a very early indication of the level of response and key themes that the Council will need to consider.

#### **4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 4.1 A presentation of the initial findings from responses received to the Strategic Growth Options Consultation will be made at the meeting of Ordinary Council.
- 4.2 The presentation will include information on the amount of responses received and individual comments made to particular consultation questions or issues (representations). It will also set out an initial summary of the comments received from neighbouring local planning authorities, Parish Councils, and key statutory bodies (such as Environment Agency, NHS England, Highways Agency etc).

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 The presentation of initial findings enables information to be shared as soon as possible about some of the responses received and key themes that the Council will need to consider as part of the plan making process. However, it is important to note that while initial findings give an indication of comments received, these do not provide the final view and will require further input and analysis.

#### **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 Consultation on the Strategic Growth Options took place for six weeks from Tuesday 6 January 2015 to Tuesday 17 February 2015, in line with regulations and the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

## **7. References to Corporate Plan**

- 7.1 The Strategic Growth Options consultation forms part of the preparation of the Brentwood Local Development Plan, a key priority in the Council's Corporate Plan as part of 'A Prosperous Borough'.

## **8. Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

Chris Leslie, Deputy S151 Officer  
01277 312542 / christopher.leslie@brentwood.gov.uk

- 8.1 The cost of carrying out the Strategic Growth Options consultation, including input and analysis of comments received, has been accounted for within the existing Planning Policy budget.

### **Legal Implications**

Philip Cunliffe-Jones, Planning Lawyer  
01277 312703 / p.cunliffe-jones@brentwood.gov.uk

- 8.2 This is a necessary consultation within the statutory requirements and the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

### **Other Implications**

- 8.3 Following analysis of all comments received, a Consultation Statement will be prepared. This statement will be brought to Members for consideration in due course and will inform preparation of the Local Plan. In addition, a Consultation Statement for the Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation (July 2013) will also need to be considered by Members and inform the next stage of plan preparation.

## **9. Background Papers**

- 9.1 Strategic Growth Options Consultation (January 2015)

## **10. Appendices to this report**

N/A

### **Report Author Contact Details:**

**Name:** Phil Drane, Planning Policy Team Leader

**Telephone:** 01277 312 610

**E-mail:** phil.drane@brentwood.gov.uk