



## Bromsgrove District Plan Review

# Issues & Options Consultation Executive Summary

This summary of the Issues and Options consultation is intended to provide a brief overview of the issues which face Bromsgrove District and the potential options for planning to address these in the future.

### What is the consultation about?

This is the first consultation stage in reviewing the Bromsgrove District Plan. We are also consulting on the Green Belt Purposes Assessment Methodology and the Site Assessment Methodology at the same time. The consultation seeks views on:

- ◆ What are the key strategic and local issues which will face the District over the next 15-25 years?
- ◆ What amount and type of growth is needed for Bromsgrove District?
- ◆ Where should the growth happen?
- ◆ Which of the plan policies need updating and are any new policies needed?
- ◆ The options identified for policy development and whether there are any alternative options that we should consider.

It doesn't at this stage:

- ◆ Contain any detailed policies
- ◆ Identify sites for future development
- ◆ Remove sites from the Green Belt
- ◆ Rule any potential options for growth out at this early stage
- ◆ Include a Call for Sites exercise, which will take place later

### How can you get involved?

The Issues and Options consultation period will run for an eight week period starting on **24th September 2018**. The deadline for responses is **19th November 2018**. You can comment on any aspect of the Issues and Options document or any of the accompanying documents that have been produced for this stage of the Plan Review process.

The **Issues and Options consultation documents** can be viewed online at [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan) or hard copies are available to view during normal opening hours at the locations shown on the right.

The **response form** is available to download from [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan)

You can either email the form to: [strategicplanning@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanning@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk) or post it to: **Strategic Planning, Bromsgrove District Council, Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 8DA**

A series of events are taking place for people to talk to planning officers and submit comments at the following locations:

Drop in sessions	10th October 2018	8.30am-8pm	Parkside Suite, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 8DA
	17th October 2018	8.30am-8pm	Parkside Suite, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 8DA
	7th November 2018	8.30am-8pm	Parkside Committee Room, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 8DA
Market Day	20th October 2018	10am-3pm	Bromsgrove Market
	30th October 2018	10am-3pm	Bromsgrove Market

Other events will be taking place in the following locations:

### Bromsgrove Leisure Centre and at the following local libraries

**Alvechurch Library** ◆ **Bromsgrove Library**  
**Catshill Library** ◆ **Hagley Library**  
**Rubery Library** ◆ **Wythall Library**

Further details of our consultation events can be found on our website: [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan)



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## Why do we need to review the District Plan?

The current plan was adopted recently in early 2017, but it included Policy BDP 3 which requires a plan review to be undertaken by 2023 to ensure that the full housing requirement for Bromsgrove up to 2030 can be delivered.

The Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires Local Authorities to keep Development Plans up to date and to be reviewed every five years. Under the Duty to Co-operate requirements the Council must assess whether there are any realistic options to assist the West Midlands conurbation in meeting its housing shortfall.

We have also produced two draft methodology documents on the Green Belt Purposes Assessment and Site Selection for consultation, which will be used to help inform the plan review.

## What are the main issues and policies?

The Issues and Options consultation contains questions on the following issues:

- ◆ **Strategic Issues for Bromsgrove District:** The Council has set out the following 5 strategic issues that it considers will be at the heart of the Plan Review: The scale and timeframe of the new plan; growing the local economy and providing strategic infrastructure; re-balancing the housing market through housing growth; the broad options for distributing new development; co-operating with the West Midlands conurbation to address wider development needs.
- ◆ **Housing:** Looks at options for developing planning policies to assist with delivering greater housing choice relating to housing density; affordable housing; housing mix, homes for the elderly; self-build & custom housebuilding and innovative design standards and accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- ◆ **Employment:** Sets out the options for developing planning policies to help grow the local economy; provide the right types of employment land; improve rural employment opportunities and improve telecommunications and digital infrastructure.
- ◆ **Transport:** Looks at options to help address the impacts of traffic congestion across the District; improving accessibility to public transport services and promoting walking and cycling opportunities.
- ◆ **Town Centre and Local Centres:** Puts forward options for addressing the rapidly changing retail environment and impacts on Bromsgrove Town Centre as well as the continued viability of local centres.
- ◆ **Social Infrastructure:** Includes community, health and education facilities and open space, sport and recreation. The Local Plan Review will need to have effective policies to ensure existing and new residents have access to the facilities they require and that services are sustained and enhanced particularly within smaller settlements.
- ◆ **Natural and Historic Environments:** It is important that the District's unique character, landscape quality and biodiversity are retained and enhanced. This section considers whether current policy is doing this effectively or whether it needs revising.
- ◆ **Climate Change and Water Resources:** There are three Air Quality Management Areas in the District and a history of over extraction of water resources. This section addresses the issues around adapting to the effects of climate change, increased renewable energy provision; promoting the efficient use of water resources and flood defence. It also asks whether our current policies afford sufficient protection.

## Where should the new growth go?

The Review will need to test development distribution options before progressing with the most appropriate development strategy for the District. The consultation paper identifies 9 potential options which could also be used in combination. These are:

- ◆ **Option 1** - Focus new development on Bromsgrove Town
- ◆ **Option 2** - Focus new development on transport corridors

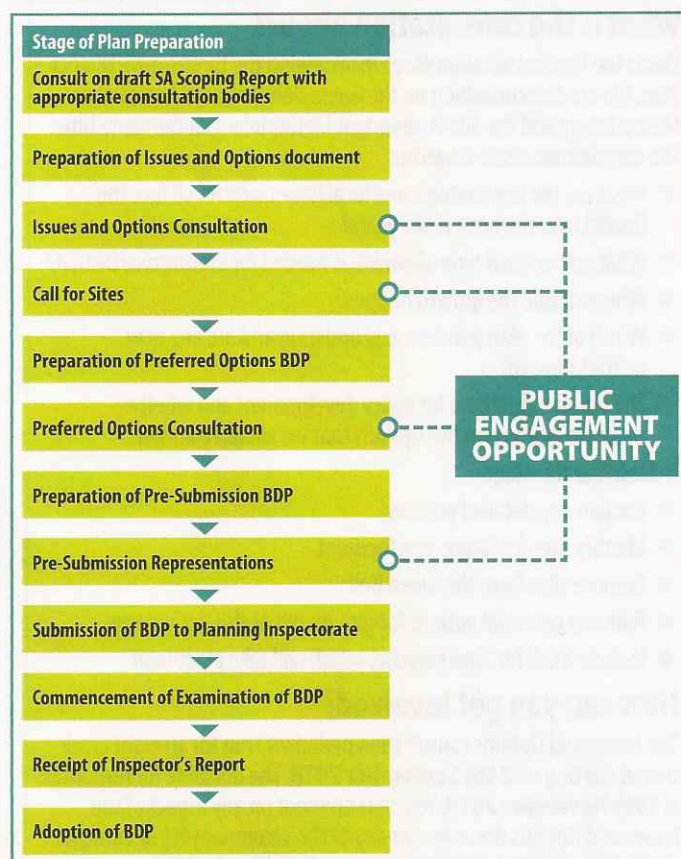
- ◆ **Option 3** - Focus new development on large settlements as identified in the existing Bromsgrove District Plan
- ◆ **Option 4** - Disperse development around the District, allocating some new growth to a variety of settlements to allow them to grow and sustain services
- ◆ **Option 5** - Focus development on the edge of the conurbation, along the border with Solihull/Birmingham and Dudley
- ◆ **Option 6** - Focus development on the edge of Redditch
- ◆ **Option 7** - Focus development in a new settlement
- ◆ **Option 8** - Reconsider the existing unconsented site allocations on the boundary with Redditch Borough to meet Bromsgrove District's needs
- ◆ **Option 9** - Urban intensification - Focus development in existing urban areas and the potential to increase densities on allocated sites in the current BDP

We are also keen to hear your views on any other potential development location options that we may have missed.

## What happens next?

All representations received in response to this consultation will be considered by the Council and published on the website for information at: [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan) Further information and regular updates about the District Plan Review will also be provided here.

The next steps in the Plan Review are set out below:



Further details of our consultation events can be found on our website:

[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan)

Please contact the **Strategic Planning Team** if you would like to know more on **01527 88 1663/2868**



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