

Report to the Coventry, Warwickshire and South West Leicestershire Shadow Economic Prosperity Board

Tuesday 17th November 2015

Housing Land Requirement and Supply Update

Summary

- 1 At its meeting on 29th September 2015, the shadow Economic Prosperity Board (sEPB) agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure the Housing Market Area's Housing Need will be met in full through the current round of plan-making. The MoU was supported by all Council Leaders in Coventry and Warwickshire with the exception of Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- 2 This report provides an update on the progress that has taken place across Coventry and Warwickshire since 29th September. In particular it provides updates relating to:
 - Endorsement of the MoU by Councils
 - Warwick District Local Plan Inspector's letter and progress on the examination
 - Local Plan/Core Strategy progress
 - The Nuneaton and Bedworth Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

Recommendation to Board

That the report be noted

Report

- 3 **Endorsement of the MoU by Councils:** Table 1 below sets out the progress made on endorsing the MoU

Table 1

| Council | Date of Endorsement | Mechanisms for Endorsement |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Coventry CC | December | Cabinet/Council |
| North Warwickshire BC | TBC | TBC |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth BC | N/A | N/A |
| Rugby BC | 27 th October | Full Council |
| Stratford-on-Avon DC | TBC | TBC |
| Warwick DC | 13 th October | Council |

- 4 **Warwick District Local Plan Inspector's letter and progress on the examination:** Following the endorsement of the MoU by the Council on 13th August, the Leader of Warwick District Council wrote to the Local Plan Inspector setting out the case for a suspension of the Local Plan examination (as opposed to withdrawing the Plan as initially recommended by the Inspector). The Inspector replied on 26th October. His letter is shown in **appendix 1**. Some key points to note from the letter are:
 - He has agreed that the Local Plan examination can be suspended until May 2016
 - He notes NBBC's position with regard to the MoU but appreciates that efforts are being made to resolve this and specifically notes the commitment to ensure the housing needs of the HMA are met in full

- He is keeping up the pressure for progress by asking for an update at the end of January 2016 at which time he will review the situation

5 His letter has been welcomed by Warwick District Council as it allows progress on the submitted Local Plan to continue. It could also be seen as a positive response to the MoU as a whole. Whilst he has not examined the methodology behind the MoU, he has not questioned it either and clearly he appreciates the efforts that have been made to ensure the HMA's housing requirement is met in full. This gives the green light for local plans/core strategies in the sub-region to progress where they align with the MoU.

6 **Local Plan/Core Strategy progress:** Since the sEPB meeting on 29th September, progress has been made on a number of the local plans/core strategies within the Housing Market Area as shown in table 2:

Table 2

| Authority | Name of Plan | Progress | Next steps |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Coventry | Local Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence base being completed • Proposals and policies being prepared • Provision for 24,600 dwellings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet and Council meeting in December 2015 to consider submission draft. • Consultation on published plan early January 2016 • Submission March 2016 |
| North Warwickshire | Core Strategy Site Allocations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy adopted October 2014. • Building on earlier consultation, proposals being prepared | TBC |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | Borough Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission draft approved 30th September for consultation • Provision for 10,404 dwellings • Acceptance of need to review dependent on the outcomes of the SHLAA • Consultation commenced 26th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation ends 18th December • SHLAA work underway – expecting completion by <u>end of November 2015</u> <u>beginning of January 2016</u> |
| Rugby | Core Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence base being completed • Proposals and policies being prepared | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred Options consultation document to full Council in December • Consultation for 8 weeks over December and January. • Will address the housing target that has been reached within the MOU |
| Stratford-on-Avon | Core Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period for representations on modifications closed • Report to Council to approve modification approved on 19th October • Modifications submitted to Inspector 23rd October. • Provision for 14,480 dwellings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination hearings scheduled to recommence mid-January 2016 |

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|--------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Warwick | Local Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector has agreed to suspension of the examination until May 2016 • Council has endorsed provision of 932 dwellings per annum in line with MoU • Work underway to identify and assess additional site sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to Council on modifications January 2016 • Period for representations on modifications February/March 2016 • Submit modifications to Inspector May 2016 |
| Warwickshire | Minerals Local Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred Option and Policies consultation approved for consultation • Consultation commenced 19th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation ends 4th December 2015 |

7 **The Nuneaton and Bedworth Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment:** As NBBC had not completed their review of their SHLAA using the sub regional methodology agreed in June 2015 at the time the MoU was considered by the sEPB on 29th September, the Council was unable to support the MoU. Progress on the SHLAA is therefore important in ensuring the MoU is robust and that the commitment to meet the HMA's housing requirement is full is achieved.

8 Since the 29th September NBBC have commenced work on the SHLAA in line with the agreed sub-regional methodology.

More to follow when I have the information from NBBC

A call for sites closes on 13th November 2015 and all those that have previously submitted land for assessment have been contacted to ensure that the reassessment of sites is based on the most up to date information available. A draft report is expected to be complete by the beginning of January 2016.