

Cheltenham Borough Council

Cabinet – 14 April 2015

Response to the Tewkesbury Borough Plan, Draft Policies and Site Options Consultation

Accountable member	Councillor Jordan – Leader
Accountable officer	Tracey Crews – Head of Planning
Ward(s) affected	All
Key Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>Tewkesbury Borough Council have notified us of the publication of their Draft Policies and Site Options Document which forms part of the preliminary stages of plan making for their Borough Plan. The public consultation runs for a period of approximately six weeks between Friday 27th February 2015 and 5pm on Monday 13th April 2015. A short extension for Cheltenham Borough Council has been arranged to allow this report to be considered by Cabinet.</p> <p>The draft contains a number of options for small additions to rural settlements, including an option for up to 50 homes in the area which would be removed from the greenbelt by the JCS at Shurdington. Larger development options of more than 100 homes are considered at Alderton, Highnam and Woodmancote (including one option partly in the Green Belt).</p> <p>It is acknowledged that these options would collectively provide far in excess of the total numbers sought for the rural areas, but the inclusion at this consultation stage of all of these options is intended to enable wider consideration of the potential rural development options for all of these settlements.</p> <p>Since this is an early stage of plan making it carries little planning weight currently and does not contain significant strategic proposals that would affect Cheltenham Borough. There are however some comments made which are included in the letter at appendix 2, largely referring to ensuring continuity with the submission JCS in all policies. There will be a further opportunity to comment on the Tewkesbury Borough Plan when it reaches pre-submission stage.</p>

Recommendations	<p>1. That Cabinet agrees the representations on the Tewkesbury draft polices and site options document contained in the letter at appendix 2.</p>
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Financial implications	<p>This report has no financial implications</p> <p>Contact officer: Mark Sheldon, mark.sheldon@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264123</p>
Legal implications	<p>The Tewkesbury Borough Plan identifies potential options for development in the area of Tewkesbury Borough and a suite of non-strategic policies for the development of land covering all areas of the borough. When adopted, the plan will form part of the Local Plan for Tewkesbury Borough and will be used for determining planning applications in the borough. The current consultation is being undertaken under Regulations 18 and 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.</p> <p>Contact officer: Cheryl Lester, Cheryl.lester@tewkesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272013</p>
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<p>There are no staffing or Trade Union implications.</p> <p>Contact officer: Julie McCarthy, julie.mccarthy@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 777249</p>
Key risks	<p>There are no key risks associated with this document at this stage. There is a minor future risk that inconsistency between the Tewkesbury Plan and the Joint Core Strategy could hinder the JCS examination. This letter will help to reduce this risk.</p>
Environmental/Social/Equality Implications	<p>There are no direct implications for the Borough at this stage.</p>

1. Background

- 1.1** Tewkesbury Borough Council is preparing a new plan that seeks to guide where development should go in their borough. It is called the Tewkesbury Borough Plan. It will be used to guide planning decisions and include land which will be developed for housing, employment and other uses and provide the necessary infrastructure to support this.
- 1.2** The new Tewkesbury Borough Plan will be a single document covering the whole of Tewkesbury borough. It will set out the vision for the borough up to 2031, and provide a strategy for achieving it in line with the overarching direction provided by the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy. The Tewkesbury Borough Plan is analogous to the Cheltenham Plan, in that it is a district plan which directs local growth and will together with the Joint Core Strategy provide

the planning framework for Tewkesbury Borough, along with Gloucestershire minerals and waste plans and any neighbourhood plans made in respect of the area.

- 1.3 The current stage of Tewkesbury’s work on the Borough Plan considers draft policies and site options. This comes after an issues and scoping consultation which they undertook in November 2013. Following the consultation, Tewkesbury Borough will refine these potential options before narrowing the number of proposed allocations, which will then be included as proposed allocations in the next stage of the plan. After the current consultation Tewkesbury Borough will need to consult at least once more before submission to the Secretary of State.
- 1.4 Many of the policy options considered are small updates to existing Tewkesbury policies and include, for example, the safeguarding of existing gypsy and traveller sites. Minor changes to the area defined as “non- essential operational” at Gloucestershire Airport are also part of the consultation.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 Commenting on the draft will help Tewkesbury Borough Council with their plan making and ensure the continuity between district plans and the Gloucester Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy.

3. Alternative options Considered

- 3.1 We could have chosen not to comment on the draft on this occasion, but by commenting we can assist in helping to ensure the Joint Core Strategy is at the heart of plan making and inconsistencies are not created.

4. Consultation and feedback

- 4.1 This report relates to public consultation. The Planning Policy team will keep up to date on the progress of theTewkesbury Borough Plan.

5. Performance management –monitoring and review

- 5.1 Performance management of the Tewkesbury Borough Plan will be undertaken by Tewkesbury Officers. Cheltenham’s Planning Policy Team will assess how comments submitted have been incorporated into future versions of the plan.

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Appendices	1. Risk Assessment 2. Letter to the Tewkesbury Borough Plan team
Background information	The Tewkesbury Borough Plan consultation webpages can be viewed at: https://consultation.tewkesbury.gov.uk/planning/tewkesbury-borough-plan-consultation

Risk Assessment

Appendix 1

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	Impact 1-5	Likelihood 1-6	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
	If the Tewkesbury Borough Plan is not consistent with the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy it could lead to a minor legal risk and delays in the Joint Core Strategy Examination, or future implementation of policy.	Tracey Crews	25.3.15	3	3	9	Reduce	By sending this letter it will help to ensure continuity with the Joint Core Strategy across future policy making. The JCS examination is now scheduled therefore the risk is lessened.	15/3/15	Philip Stephenson	Part of Joint Core Strategy risk register

Explanatory notes

Impact – an assessment of the impact if the risk occurs on a scale of 1-5 (1 being least impact and 5 being major or critical)

Likelihood – how likely is it that the risk will occur on a scale of 1-6

(1 being almost impossible, 2 is very low, 3 is low, 4 significant, 5 high and 6 a very high probability)

Control - Either: Reduce / Accept / Transfer to 3rd party / Close