

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	26 April 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Tewkesbury Borough Plan Working Group
<b>Report of:</b>	Matt Barker, Planning Policy Manager
<b>Corporate Lead:</b>	Robert Weaver, Deputy Chief Executive
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Councillor D M M Davies
<b>Number of Appendices:</b>	One

## **Executive Summary:**

The Tewkesbury Borough Plan (TBP) will form part of the statutory development plan for the Borough. The TBP will sit underneath the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and will help to deliver the growth set out in the JCS by providing local planning policy guidance that is specific to the borough. The plan will include making smaller-scale allocations for development. The TBP will also sit above any Neighbourhood Development Plans that are made. Furthermore, the TBP is important for the delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities and objectives.

The TBP has previously been through an initial Scoping consultation and a Regulation 18 Draft Plan consultation. Officers are now working on the development a Regulation 18 Preferred Options Plan consultation.

The Committee is asked to nominate five Members to form a Working Group, in line with the Terms of Reference at Appendix 1 to this report, to work with Officers to progress the TBP to the next stage of consultation and beyond towards its examination and ultimate adoption.

## **Recommendation:**

**To approve the setting up of a Tewkesbury Borough Plan Working Group, in line with the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 1 to the report, to be made up of five Members of the Council.**

## **Reasons for Recommendation:**

The Tewkesbury Borough Plan will form part of the statutory development plan for the Borough. The plan will contribute towards meeting the objectives of the Council Plan and to delivering housing and economic growth.

## **Resource Implications:**

The work will be supported by Officers as part of their normal roles.

No other resource implications arise directly from this report. However, to support and inform the development of the Borough Plan and the working group additional evidence base studies will need to be commissioned.

## **Legal Implications:**

The Council's Constitution provides that a Committee may appoint a Working Group and draw

up its Terms of Reference to assist in examining the detailed issued within the Terms of Reference of that Committee. A Committee appointing a Working Group is, at that time, to name the membership and will fill any casual vacancies on the Working Group which occur in the future. The Working Group would be subject to the Council Procedure Rules contained in Part III of Part 4 of the Constitution. Membership of a Working Group may be drawn from Councillors who do not serve on the parent Committee and a meeting of a Working Group cannot take place unless at least three of the whole number of its Members are present.

The development of the Tewkesbury Borough Plan itself must be undertaken in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

**Risk Management Implications:**

None.

**Performance Management Follow-up:**

If agreed, the Working Group will be established as identified within the Terms of Reference and meeting dates scheduled to begin in May 2017.

**Environmental Implications:**

Not applicable.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** Tewkesbury Borough Council's Local Development Scheme includes the preparation of a Tewkesbury Borough Plan as part of the development plan. The development plan comprises those plans/policies that have been prepared and adopted under the 1990 and 2004 Acts, for example 'old style' local plan policies, core strategies and action area plans (Local Plans), as well as any Neighbourhood Development Plans that are 'made'. Local Plans and Neighbourhood Development Plans are the key to delivering sustainable development that reflects the vision and aspirations of local communities.
- 1.2** The approach taken by Tewkesbury Borough Council in preparing an up to date development plan has been to work collectively with Gloucester City and Cheltenham Borough Councils on the development of a Joint Core Strategy (JCS). The JCS will set out the level of growth required across the area, provide the strategic level planning policies to guide future development, and allocate larger-scale strategic allocations to help meet this need. However, underneath the JCS, each of the three authorities is preparing its own district-level plan. For Tewkesbury this will be the Tewkesbury Borough Plan (TBP).
- 1.3** The TBP will sit underneath the strategic-level JCS and provide the local-level growth strategy for the Borough. The TBP will help to meet the level of growth set out in the JCS by providing specific policy guidance for new development in the area and make smaller-scale non-strategic allocations. The policies that will be established through the TBP will enable us to set out specific requirements for new development and provide more detail than the policies in the JCS. This will allow us to respond to any particular challenges and issues in the Borough. In regard to allocations, the TBP will specifically focus on housing sites at Tewkesbury town, Rural Service Centres and Service Villages as well as sites for employment growth around the Borough.
- 1.4** Work on the TBP has already begun and an initial scoping consultation was undertaken October/November 2013 and a Draft Policies and Site Options consultation was undertaken in February/March 2015. However, the progress of the TBP has been closely linked to the progress of the JCS which has itself been delayed through the examination

process and takes a significant amount of officer resource. There is now a need to develop the TBP further towards a Preferred Options consultation, with this targeted for September 2017. The Preferred Options will build on the feedback from previous consultations as well as taking into account of changes to the JCS through its examination, any new evidence base and changes in Government policy. Importantly the Preferred Options will need to consult on a set of clearly defined proposed site allocations, rather than broader options, and policies.

**1.5** In order to progress the TBP towards the Preferred Options consultation, and beyond towards its examination and ultimately its adoption, it is important that officers work closely with Members to deliver the most appropriate and sustainable strategy for future growth. Therefore, a small working group is recommended to provide a focussed review of the TBP development and inform the approach to be taken in the plan. This Group will work closely with relevant Officers to take the plan forward through reviewing and discussing the content of the plan and its associated evidence base. The proposed Terms of Reference for the Working Group can be found at Appendix 1.

**1.6** The Preferred Options TBP will ultimately be reported back to Council for consideration to seek approval for it to be published for public consultation.

## **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**2.1** None.

## **3.0 CONSULTATION**

**3.1** At the next stage the Tewkesbury Borough Plan will be subject to at least a 6 week statutory (Regulation 18) consultation on a Preferred Options plan. Prior to examination the TBP will be subject to a further statutory (Regulation 19) consultation on the Pre-Submission plan. Following submission the TBP will then be subjected to an Examination in Public by an independent Planning Inspector.

## **4.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**

**4.1** Adopted Tewkesbury Borough Local Plan to 2011 (Saved Policies).  
Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy.  
Tewkesbury Borough Council Plan.

## **5.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

**5.1** Not applicable.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)**

**6.1** The work will be supported by Officers as part of their normal roles. Financial resource is identified through existing earmarked reserves specifically to develop the TBP.

## **7.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)**

**7.1** Not applicable.

## **8.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)**

**8.1** Not applicable.

**9.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS**

**9.1** Not applicable.

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**Background Papers:** None.

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**Appendices:** 1. Proposed Terms of Reference for the Tewkesbury Borough Plan Working Group