



Coventry City Council

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Briefing note

To
Cabinet

Date: 13th February 2007

Subject
Scrutiny Board 3 Comments on Council's Response to the Regional Spatial Strategy Consultation

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the recommendations of Scrutiny Board 3 (Urban Regeneration & Regional Planning and City Services), following their consideration of the report on the council's response to the Regional Spatial Strategy consultation on Monday 12th February, 2007.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet are asked to consider the issues raised by the Scrutiny Board and decide whether to incorporate their recommendations in the City Council's formal consultation responses.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Board considered the report of the Director of City Development and broadly supported the draft response submitted. The Board enjoyed a wide-ranging discussion regarding the three options for growth in the number of new housing units proposed for the City. Discussion focused on the need for development in the City to be of a high quality and for this to cement the City's position at the centre of the Sub-Region.

Members supported the general direction of the report and in particular supported the choice of Option 2 for overall levels of new housing growth, with the possibility being explored of this providing a spring-board for further development should the need arise.

The Board also wished to draw attention to the possibility of further significant "park and ride" developments in the City. Members were keen that the draft response did not exclude the possibility of the City Council promoting "park and ride east", which might reasonably be expected to interface with the Sprint ("bus that thinks it's a tram") within 10-15 years.

Generating sufficient affordable housing to meet the City's need was another issue raised at the meeting. It was noted that there needed to be flexibility in the manner of delivering the 25% guide for affordable housing with a variety of approaches being utilised, including the Strategic Housing Fund.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The Board supported the draft response, and endorsed the choice of option 2 as the basis for further discussions on the Regional Spatial Strategy. The Board recommended that the wording regarding "park and ride" facilities be amended to incorporate a reference to the possibility of developing further such facilities in Coventry.

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