

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

2nd December, 2008

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Matchet)

Councillor Adalat	Councillor Maton
Councillor Andrews	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Arrowsmith	Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Auluck	Councillor J Mutton
Councillor Bailey	Councillor Mrs Mutton
Councillor Bains	Councillor Nellist
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Noonan
Councillor Charley	Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Chater	Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Cliffe	Councillor Miss Reece
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Ridge
Councillor Crookes	Councillor Ridley
Councillor Mrs Dixon	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Foster	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Gazey	Councillor Smith
Councillor Mrs Johnson	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Khan	Councillor Mrs. Waters
Councillor Lakha	Councillor Williams
Councillor Lancaster	Councillor Windsor
Councillor Lapsa	
Councillor Lee	
Councillor Mrs. Lucas	

Apologies:-

- Councillor Asif
- Councillor Mrs. Bigham
- Councillor Field
- Councillor Harrison
- Councillor Harvard
- Councillor Kelsey
- Councillor Skinner
- Councillor Mrs. Sweet

77. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

78. West Midlands Spatial Strategy – Phase Two Revision (Preferred Option) and the NLP Study

The Council considered a comprehensive report of the Director of City Development setting out a recommended response to (a) the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase Two Revision Draft Preferred Strategy ("the Preferred Option") and (b) the further study (known as the Nathaniel Lichfield or NLP Study) commissioned by the Government on increasing the number of new homes to be built in the West Midlands.

The report had also been considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 2nd December, 2008, (their Minute 119/08 referred).

The report set out the context to the Regional Spatial Strategy Review process, described the Phase Two Review, the Phase Two Consultative Options and the Council's Response to the Phase Two Review Options Consultation, and listed arguments for supporting, with appropriate qualifications, the policies of the Preferred Option and for opposing the conclusions of the NLP Study.

The Council also considered reports on the above matter considered by:

- (a) The West Midlands Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee at their meeting on 28 November 2008, when they approved the recommendations contained therein.
- (b) The Coventry/Solihull/Warwickshire Forum at their meeting also on 28 November 2008, when they:
 - (i) approved recommendation (1) to advise the constituent authorities (a) to confirm support for the RSS Phase Two Preferred Option and welcome the adoption of Forum Strategy, but asks that this be embodied in Policy, and (b) to oppose the approach and conclusions of the NLP study and of new settlements as an approach to provision; and
 - (ii) agreed an amendment to recommendation (2) to read "that the Forum reiterates its support for the Sub Regional Strategy and strongly opposes the approach, methodology and conclusions of the NLP study which undermines and prejudices the objectives of the RSS".

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (1) Support the Preferred Option, provided that its phasing policies are rigorously applied.**
- (2) Welcome the inclusion of the principles for the sub-region agreed by the Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire Forum and ask that they be incorporated in policy.**
- (3) Oppose the conclusions of the study by NLP for the reasons set out in paragraphs 4.12 to 4.16 of the report submitted.**

- (4) Instruct employees to continue to work with partner authorities to produce co-ordinated responses to the RSS consultation and the NLP study.**
- (5) Endorse the contents of the report submitted and authorise its submission to the Government Office for the West Midlands as the Council's formal responses to the Preferred Option and the NLP Study.**

(NOTE: The meeting closed at 4.55 p.m.)