
Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
13th October 2023

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities – Councillor D Welsh

Director Approving Submission of the report:
Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services

Ward(s) affected:
All Wards

Title:
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) Regulation 19 Borough Plan consultation response

Is this a key decision?

No – the proposals contained in this report at this stage will not be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising 2 or more wards in the area of the City

Executive Summary:

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council are currently consulting at regulation 19 stage of their draft Borough Plan. With Coventry City Council bounding the authority, a response to the draft plan is proposed at Appendix One. Whilst matters in the plan relate to the area within NBBC's authority boundary, given the neighbouring location, Coventry City Council propose a response to the consultation to recognise potential impacts across local authority boundaries.

Within the local plan review process Coventry City Council currently propose to utilise the jointly commissioned HEDNA which utilises 2021 Census Data to calculate housing and economic development needs, whilst challenging the government's 35% uplift. Should this approach be rejected by the planning inspectorate, the authority may then require the support of neighbouring authorities.

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Member is requested to:

- 1) Endorse the response to the consultation included at appendix one for submission to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Councils regulation 19 consultation.
- 2) Delegate authority to the Head of Planning Policy and Environment, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to make any non-substantive changes to the response.
- 3) Support that should Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council proceed with the submission of its Borough Plan to the Planning Inspectorate without addressing the concern raised by the Council, a further report be brought back to a meeting of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities and/or Cabinet to consider whether it should object at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's Plan Examination.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix One – Draft Coventry City Council response to NBBC Reg 19 borough plan consultation

Background papers:

Coventry City Council Local Plan 2017

Other useful documents

N/A

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: NBBC Borough Plan Regulation 19 consultation response

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Coventry City Council has prepared a response to Regulation 19 consultation of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Councils consultation of its draft Borough plan, the deadline for consultation responses is set as the 16th October 2023.
- 1.2 The draft NBBC Borough Plan identifies which sites it proposes for allocation, and comment is therefore made around policies DS3 'Overall Development Needs' and DS4 ' Residential allocations.
- 1.3 The current Coventry City Council Local Plan (2017) was reliant on neighbouring authorities in delivery of shortfall in housing and employment provisions, where Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council contributed 4,408 homes through its current plan, which was adopted in June 2019.
- 1.4 Coventry City Council are currently underway in reviewing its own 2017 Local Plan, with the regulation 18 stage of consultation having finalised on the 29th September 2023. It is the City Council's aim to meet its own needs within its own boundaries, however at this stage of the plan review process this cannot be confirmed as deliverable, pending detailed assessment of capacity.
- 1.5 Coventry has been identified by national government as one of the cities subject to 'urban uplift', resulting in an imposed additional housing requirement of 35%. Through the City Councils plan review process, the authority proposes to challenge this uplift at examination and cannot at this point conclude the level of housing delivery which will be required in the forthcoming plan period.
- 1.6 As such the City Council proposes in its response to Nuneaton and Bedworth's regulation 19 Borough Plan consultation that flexibility should be retained within the Borough Plan, given that other plans within the HMA are currently at an earlier stage, whilst noting that this point is also recognised in the Sustainability Appraisal presented alongside the draft Borough Plan.
- 1.7 Suggestions around how such flexibility may be retained within the Borough Plan to ensure the needs of the HMA are met are contained within Appendix One

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1. The Cabinet Member could choose to not support the submission of the representation to the NBBC Borough Plan, however this would limit the ability for representation on current and future matters of neighbouring allocations.
- 2.2. The recommendation is to support the submission of the representation, in order that flexibility of allocation be recommended to NBBC for the reasons outlined in appendix one.

3. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 3.1. The decision will be implemented immediately, with the representation submission being made to meet the consultation deadline of 16th October 2023

4. Comments from the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer

4.1. Financial implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report

4.2. Legal implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5. Other implications

5.1. How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)

The representation aligns to the identified delivery priorities of the Council Plan in Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities and Improving the economic prosperity of the city and regions

5.2. How is risk being managed?

There is no risk associated with the recommendations.

5.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

Should the representation be endorsed, the planning policy team will submit the representation within existing resource.

5.4. Equality/ EIA

A full Equality and Impact Assessment (ECA) was undertaken as part of developing the Local Plan. As part of that analysis, the Council had due regard to its public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act (2010).

5.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

There is no direct impact from the recommendations of the report.

5.6. Implications for partner organisations?

None

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Service

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