

Ledbury NDP Review: Consultant's Work Programme Update

January 2021

1. An iterative approach is being followed based upon producing Topic Reports on relevant subjects within the consultant's brief, with drafts circulated for comment, information gathering and revision through advice from the Steering Group, Working Group and other representatives. When finished these should contribute towards the NDPO evidence base.

2. Five topic reports are being prepared:

- Topic paper 1: Integrating Ledbury Design Guide into the NDP
- Topic paper 2: Employment and Economy
- Topic paper 3: Green Infrastructure, Recreation, Leisure and Open Space
- Topic paper 4: Community Services
- Topic paper 5: Ledbury Town Settlement Boundary

3. Topic paper 1: Integrating Ledbury Design Guide into the NDP

Draft version 1 has been circulated to relevant representatives and feed back is awaited. A draft version 2 is being prepared that will be updated following further information, including from the Landscape and Visual Assessment and the response to the request for views to be identified.

4. Topic paper 2: Employment and Economy

Draft version 1 comprising a template with a limited amount of information has also been circulated to group members involved in this topic. This will need to be added to following discussions with Heineken. Other elements to which contributions would be welcome include, including upon town centre, tourism and commerce. The identification of additional issues to add to those in the current NDP would be useful. One that has been raised is the need for additional tourist accommodation.

5. Topic paper 3: Green Infrastructure, Recreation, Leisure and Open Space

The template for this topic covers the four items in the heading. Some preliminary work has been undertaken to add to the current strategy for green infrastructure. It is hoped to circulate this soon. Information required to support the provision of additional playing fields and collected by the Sports Association needs to be provided so that it can be presented in an appropriate form in the evidence base. This includes the basis for the amount of land and facilities required, site options looked at, and the ability to deliver any proposal. Additional open space requirements appear unlikely other than those associated with new development. Unless otherwise advised, it is understood that additional leisure facilities will not be required.

6. Topic paper 4: Community Services

A template for this topic is being prepared. Currently issues identified from the current NDP include facilities for youth, health service/surgery requirements, and a central hub for emergency services. Advice is required upon other possible matters

that might usefully be considered. Preliminary advice has been received upon health service/surgery requirements which is awaiting confirmation.

7. Topic paper 5: Settlement Boundary

Version 1 has been prepared as the basis for discussion and identifying further information that is required, including upon the need for developments arising from other topic reports. It also presents evidence from decisions on planning applications that are relevant to defining a boundary. The approach to public consultation upon options will require consideration

8. Strategic Environmental Assessment

Herefordshire Council has produced an Environmental Scoping Report that will form the basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments necessary at all relevant stages of the plan's progress to adoption.

Bill Bloxsome/22.12.2020