

NOTE ON THE EDITED ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

This is a brief note to explain where we are with the updated Issues and options paper and the related leaflet and questionnaire for public consultation, in advance of these meetings. The Issues and options paper is a technical document which will be available online and form the basis for the separate summarised version leaflet and related questionnaire which will be used for the first round of public consultation.

The Issues paper has been produced by the NDP technical planning consultant, Bill Bloxome, and is supported by Samantha Banks, the Neighbourhood Planning Manager for Herefordshire Council. She describes it as 'a very comprehensive and well put together document which gives a good set of potential options for consultation.'

It is also based on considerable background work by our two consultants to produce the six topic papers sent to you, covering the settlement boundary, employment, recreation, green infrastructure, design guidance and landscape assessment (LVBA).

It has already been updated with the change of order of the issues as agreed at the last WP and we were awaiting any comment as agreed by the Friday 12th March deadline before finalising it and producing the related and synchronised leaflet and questionnaire for the meetings' approval.

However, we have received a large number of comments after the deadline and which were not received until Monday this week. The SG obviously wants to do justice to this feedback, but it has taken a significant amount of time to analyse and document, meaning it has not yet been possible to submit a final version of the paper and the other two documents as planned for today, Friday, to send as per the agenda.

The SG has therefore decided it would be best to send you all three document as more fully updated together and so it is planned to continue working on them so they can come to you on Monday. As an introduction to discussion on the Issues paper, it was felt it would be helpful to explain how the WP and SG are addressing the issues raised, as follows:

1. Some of the points raised are already covered in the Issues paper, but we agree that some elements of the Issues paper should be changed for clarity. Similar changes to improve maps will be undertaken, especially for use in the consultation leaflet, but it may not be possible to have done all of those done before the meeting.
2. Some issues raised are outside the agreed scope of this revised NDP and will therefore be left to future NDPs. As we know and as agreed in the scoping document, this revision can only address a limited number of issues.
3. Detail apparently missing on different issues is either in the appropriate topic papers, or the SG will ask the consultant to provide additional, relevant detail for the final drafts of the topic papers to be produced. It was not intended that the Issues

paper and associated consultation leaflet should include more detail than necessary for understanding the main issues.

4. Comments on which differences of opinion remain can be discussed and decided upon by councillors at our meeting on 22nd March. (These relate in particular to the location of sports facilities and proposals for the town centre)

Overall, the SG recommends the Issues and Options paper, with the two suggested public consultation documents, to you as a sound basis for proceeding with the public consultation and getting to the all important Reg 14 at the earliest opportunity. Despite these few days delay there is no reason not to, and every need to ensure we firmly adhere to the current project timescale to get to Reg 14 on schedule.

Cllr Phillip Howells
Chair NDP WP
19th March 2021