

Recommendation from Executive meeting of 13th November 2018

1. HARBOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031: PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

The Executive considered potential modifications to Policy BE2 – Strategic Distribution of the Harborough Local Plan (submission version) 2011-31 following the public examination hearings held from 2nd to 11th October 2018. The Inspector expressed his preliminary views (without prejudice to his final report) that the plan is sound subject to certain modifications. Whilst most of the modifications do not require additional work the Inspector has asked the Council to do some more work related to Policy BE2: Strategic Distribution to assist him in his consideration of the soundness of the Local Plan.

The Executive considered that the evidence base needed to be available to enable Council to make a decision on the options in respect of Policy BE2. As paragraph 4.7 of the officer's report stated that this evidence would not be available for the Council meeting on 26th November it was considered that paragraph 4.7 should be amended to remove that date and the officer's recommendation be amended to refer to the "amended paragraph 4.7."

The Executive agreed that the officer report to Council include the amended paragraph 4.7 and that the draft minutes of this meeting and the amendments made to paragraph 4.7 also be presented to Council for background information

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That Policy BE2 of the Harborough Local Plan 2011-31 (submission version September 2017) is modified to allocate land adjoining Magna Park to meet the limit of 700,000 square metres in Policy BE2 (as contained at Appendix A to the officer's report), subject to the amended paragraph 4.7 of that report (as attached at Appendix 1 to these minutes).

The following items are attached:

- **report to Executive on 13th November (with amended paragraph 4.7) (page 1)**
- **minutes of the Executive meeting of 13th November 2018 (page 7)**
- **additional evidence:**
 - **Summary of Evidence (page 16)**
 - **Evidence Appendix A (page 17)**
 - **Evidence Appendix B (page 103)**

Summary of Reasons

The Council submitted the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 to Government for examination in March 2018. The examination hearings were held from 2nd to 11th October 2018. At the end of the hearings the Inspector expressed his preliminary views (without prejudice to his final report) that the plan is sound subject to certain modifications – it is normal for plans to require modifications.

Most of these modifications do not require additional work. However, following the submissions at the hearings, the Inspector has asked the Council to do some more work related to Policy BE2: Strategic Distribution (see Appendix A for the full Policy wording), to assist him in his consideration of the soundness of the Local Plan.

Policy BE2 allows development of up to 700,000 square metres of Strategic Distribution floor space adjoining Magna Park subject to certain criteria, but does not allocate a specific site (or sites) to meet this limit. It is a 'criteria based' policy. The Local Plan Inspector expressed some concern about managing such a significant matter through a 'criteria based' policy.