

## **Report to Brownhills LNP, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

### **Regeneration of Brownhills District Centre**

#### **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Brownhills LNP on the Council's plans – in conjunction with Walsall Housing Group - for the regeneration of Brownhills District Centre and to seek the assistance of the LNP in establishing a project reference group to engage the local community and stakeholders in the shaping and delivery of the project.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

The LNP is recommended to:

- (1) Note the contents of this report:
- (2) Support the establishment of a project reference group to oversee the Brownhills Centre regeneration project.
- (3) Nominate up to five of its members to join the project reference group and to suggest up to five local organisations from which representatives should also be drawn.
- (4) Receive regular reports from the reference group on progress on the regeneration project.

#### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 Brownhills District Centre has been identified as a key regeneration project within the Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) for the Borough approved by Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006. Cabinet has also agreed, at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006, that Brownhills should be one of the first priorities in this programme.
- 3.2 To take the project forward the Council, with its partner Walsall Housing Group (whg) intend to create a project team comprising of officers of the council and whg who will manage the delivery of the project on a day-to-day basis. The team will be led by a project officer to manage the Brownhills Centre regeneration scheme.
- 3.3 Through the development of the Strategic Regeneration Framework the following regeneration issues for Brownhills have been identified as key issues and will be explored through the project reference group:
- a. Encouraging development and enhancement of the Centre to create a stronger retail offer and provide linkages through to the canal and Clayhanger Common;
  - b. Investigation of traffic management measures and further assessment of the Brownhills Transport Package;
  - c. Protecting the potential for new transport links and interchange;
  - d. Improving the housing offer through, in particular, redevelopment of the Silver Court area;
  - e. Rationalising the retail offer to consolidate and strengthen the retail core;
  - f. Provision of additional bridge across the canal to Clayhanger Common at Pier Street

#### **4.0 Project Reference Group**

- 4.1 The Council is seeking to engage the local community and key stakeholders throughout the regeneration project by setting up a reference group, made up of representatives from the LNP and relevant local organisations. The reference group will have up to 10 members, with five being members of the LNP and the remaining five members being drawn from local representative organisations in Brownhills. The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise, or his nominee, will also attend the meetings to provide a strategic overview on Walsall – wide regeneration matters.
- 4.2 The purpose of the reference group is to essentially drive the project and ensure ongoing communication with the wider community. In practice this will involve the LNP receiving reports from the project team, commenting on emerging plans and strategies, advising on community consultation and providing feedback to the local community.
- 4.3 The reference group will meet every two months, prior to the LNP meeting, to enable regular reports to be given to the LNP. The project officer will be responsible for organising and servicing meetings and detailed terms of reference will be prepared by the Council for consideration at the first meeting.
- 4.4 The LNP is asked to nominate up to five of its members to join the project reference group and to suggest up to five local organisations from which representatives can be drawn. The LNP is also asked to receive reports from the reference group on a regular basis.

## **Annex 1: Draft Terms of Reference**

### **BROWNHILLS CENTRE PROJECT – DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **Terms of Reference**

The draft terms of reference set out the proposed purpose, composition and working arrangements for the Brownhills project reference group.

#### **Purpose of the group**

The reference group will advise the project team on the development of the project, which will involve:

- a) Receiving reports from the project team
- b) Commenting on emerging plans and strategies
- c) Advising on how to consult the local community
- d) Providing feedback to the local community

Subject to the agreement of the group, members may also be involved in other activities which contribute to the overall delivery of the project.

#### **Composition**

The reference group will have up to 10 members, with five being members of the LNP and the remaining five members being drawn from local representative organisations in Brownhills.

The reference group will select a chair who will be responsible for agreeing the agenda with the project team leader and chairing individual meetings. The chair should be a member of the LNP and will also report back to the LNP on a regular basis.

If members are unable to attend a meeting they may send a deputy in their place but they should notify the project team leader (the secretary) in advance of the meeting. Members intending to resign should notify the chair and if possible should nominate a replacement.

#### **Secretariat**

The project team leader will organise and service meetings, including the preparation and circulation of agendas, reports and notes of meetings.

#### **Frequency of meetings**

The reference group will meet every two months, prior to the LNP meeting, to enable regular reporting to the LNP. Meeting dates will be agreed in advance and circulated to members of the group.

#### **Location of meetings**

Meetings will be held at suitable local venues in Brownhills.