



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Council
22 November 2012

<u>Item</u>
<b>12</b>
<u>Public</u>

**Request by Kinnerley Parish Council for Shropshire Council to adopt for Development management purposes the Housing and Development and Economic and Tourist Development section of their Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

**Responsible Officer** Jake Berriman

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report seeks endorsement to the request by Kinnerley Parish Council to have the planning element of their emerging Parish Neighbourhood Plan adopted by Shropshire Council for development management purposes. This responsibility for planning policy adoption falls to Full Council.
- 1.2 The request follows an intense programme of work that has been undertaken by the Parish Council following the successful bid by Shropshire Council to obtain Front Runner status for the Parish to produce a neighbourhood plan and the decision for this to be aligned with Shropshire Council's SAMDev rather than producing a stand-alone plan following the formal process set out in the Localism Act.
- 1.3 The work of Kinnerley Parish Council and its active community members in producing this plan is to be applauded providing a demonstration of the alternative, Community-Led planning route that Shropshire Council is advocating as a more sustainable model to full-blown neighbourhood development plans.

**2. Recommendation**

It is recommended :

That the Housing and Development and Economic and Tourist Development section of the Kinnerley Parish Neighbourhood Plan be endorsed and adopted for development management purposes.

### **3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

- 3.1 The Localism Act and Regulations covering the production of neighbourhood development plans is quite prescriptive in relation to the production of Neighbourhood development Plans, such as that being professionally brought forward by Much Wenlock, the subject of a report in September. The production of less formal community-led plans is also well documented and has a strong legacy here in Shropshire. Many of Shropshire's existing community led plans such as Parish Plans have either now been taken on board as part of our on-going Place Plan process, where aspirations are "jointly owned" by Shropshire Council or in the case of Town design Guides like the excellent example in Church Stretton, they have been adopted by the local planning authority for development management purposes. Shropshire Council officers and the Local Member have been involved at all stages of the preparation of the Kinnerley Plan which has been critical to reducing risk and ensuring an appropriate balance has been struck between local initiative and the statutory planning framework provided by the adopted Shropshire Core Strategy and emerging SAMDev DPD.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Shropshire Council received a Government award of £20,000 to support this process and made £18,000 available to Kinnerley Parish Council, using the remainder to help support a plan for Albrighton, which was unsuccessful in its funding bid. With a grant in place that plan is now proceeding apace. Significant support in kind has been made by the local community and Shropshire Council officers, particularly from the Community Action Team.

### **5. Background**

- 5.1.1 Shropshire Council's LOCALised planning approach supports Neighbourhood Development Plans being brought forward under the Localism Act, and the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, such as Much Wenlock's emerging Plan, indeed we are legally obliged to do so. However, we are also committed to promoting and supporting planning for neighbourhoods as a more cost effective and sustainable alternative based on sound community led planning principles established through a solid backdrop of parish planning, design guides etc. A cabinet decision was reached in July to invest £50,000 of NHB monies into supporting these more cost effective community led plans, and this "kick Start" funding is now being distributed to Parish Councils looking to refresh their plans, in many cases to support the Place Plan process. As can be seen above the Government grant has been prudently used to support more than the initial five Front Runners. They were Much Wenlock, Oswestry, Kinnerley, Lydbury North and the UMAC Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey Community Committee representing Shrewsbury Town Council.

- 5.2 The three success criteria cited by the government in their Impact Assessment for neighbourhood planning are:- increasing housing supply, reducing opposition to economic growth and increasing community engagement and involvement in planning and development. All of which are key components of Shropshire’s LOCALised Planning approach, which, through supporting locally produced plans within our own Place Plans we are committing to the joint delivery of local ambitions, not only in terms of locally defined policy guidance (such as design guidance) but also community endorsed prioritisation of infrastructure and other beneficial investment to help make more sustainable places.
- 5.3 Four of Shropshire’s five Front Runners as well as Albrighton are currently developing plans based on this “informal” LOCALised route linked to Shropshire’s own development plans and Kinnerley is the first to reach the stage where it is proposing sites and policies to be taken forward in this way. They have requested that their proposals are now formally adopted by Shropshire Council so that this expression of supported public opinion is given weight as a material planning consideration in the decision making process for future planning applications.
- 5.4 This formal acknowledgement of the plan and adoption by the Council will go some way to demonstrate that we mean to stand behind bottom up approaches to plan making such as this where they take a positive and responsible attitude towards growth and development consistent not only with Shropshire planning policies but also the National Planning Policy Framework.

**List of Background Papers:** 2011 Localism Act, Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, Shropshire Core Strategy, Shropshire SAMDev consultation draft, NPPF.

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):** Cllr. Malcolm Price

**Local Member:** Arthur Walpole

**Appendices:** None