

WHITEFIELD & UNSWORTH TOWNSHIP FORUM

RESPONSE TO CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2013

(This is a collective response of the Whitefield and Unsworth Township Forum to the Bury's Core Strategy Consultation Aug-September 2013)

The Whitefield and Unsworth Township Area Plan makes reference to several issues that also appear in the Core Strategy.

Encourage new business to the Pilsworth site:

This is a major issue for the Core Strategy, stating that the Pilsworth site has potential to accommodate approximately 15% of the Borough's total future supply of employment land.

However any development of land needs to take into account the impact on increased traffic and congestion that this may cause in the area, especially on Croft lane which is already very congested at peak times. Connectivity needs to be of high importance, with good integrated public transport systems, travel plans and infrastructure in place.

Improvements to the bus services have been made in the last twelve months, but this has been due to the work of local councillors, the township Forum and good partnership working with the bus company, and not due to corporate strategic action.

The Forum would therefore agree that Pilsworth site is extremely important and businesses need to be encouraged, however they would like to see specific reference to traffic implications in the core strategy.

Park 17 is another important site with scope for development, protection of this site is important for future employment locally. In considering sustainable economic growth and reducing the congestion and need to travel, it is important to employ people as locally as possible. This would assist with deprivation issues around unemployment, especially for the Besses area.

Future House Building

The core strategy states that approximately 5% of proposed house building across the Borough up to 2029, will be accommodated in Whitefield. This is approximately 350 new homes in the area. The intention is to infill existing space.

In consideration of the deprivation in certain areas of the area (especially Besses Ward) the strategy needs to ensure that a proportion of the houses being built are affordable housing.

There is a question of education needs and it is acknowledged by the township Forum that many schools in the area are already working to capacity, and that more houses and therefore people moving into the area may ultimately put strain on demand for school places. This should be a consideration in the strategy.

Protection of Green Belt area

Although there have been assurance given to the Township Forum that all green belt areas are to be retained, the core strategy specifically says that Green belt designations will be “Predominantly in the Unsworth area to the east of the M66 and Parr Brook/ bury Golf Club area.” The forum would specifically like this to be addressed to state specifically that ALL green belt areas in Whitefield and Unsworth will be protected, this to take into account the areas around the Pilkington Park ward.

Hollins Village Design Statement

To continue to be considered in any planning application in the area

July 2013