

GW to draft a response.

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
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13th November 2014

Cllr Brian Edwards
Leader
South Staffordshire Council
Council Offices
Codsall
South Staffs WV8 12PX

Dear Cllr Edwards,

Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership and Black Country Strategic Housing Study

Thank you for your letter of 22nd September 2014 regarding the Strategic Housing Study and enclosing a copy of your letter of 5th September to the Leader of Birmingham City Council. I hope you will understand that I have not responded straightaway as there has been a great deal of related and sometimes overlapping correspondence. In particular, I am aware of your response (of 20th October) to the invitation from the four Black Country authorities for South Staffordshire Council to participate in the Study and that the Black Country authorities are writing in reply.

I think that the various recent correspondence will have helped to clarify that, whilst the Study was initially commissioned by the GBSLEP, the participation of the Black Country is by the four local authorities, through the Association of Black Country Authorities (ABCA). The Black Country LEP does not have a direct role in the Study.

However, the Partnership does support the Study being undertaken. With the local planning authorities we share the view that decisions about where additional housing growth might be accommodated will undoubtedly have important impacts on the future planning and regeneration of the Black Country and its surrounding housing market area. Continuing involvement in the Study will allow a better understanding of and greater influence over the technical analysis and how the results might be taken forward.

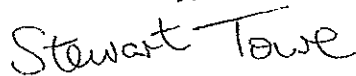
As I understand it, the Study will have a role in helping to inform future reviews of statutory development plans, including the Black Country Core Strategy, which provides the spatial framework for the Black Country LEP area. Such work will be subject to the Duty to Cooperate and I know that the

local authorities, as well as the Partnership, will continue to engage with South Staffordshire on matters of mutual interest.

I further understand that in response to your letter of 20th October, the Black Country authorities are writing to suggest that even if you remain of the view that you do not wish to participate actively in the Study, it would be helpful if South Staffordshire Council would receive consultations on it and be prepared to comment. I would endorse such a proposal. It would aid discussions not only in the short term but also into the future when the time comes for the Black Country and South Staffordshire to review their plans.

I hope this is useful. You might also find it useful to advise the other authority Leaders who signed the letter of 5th September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stewart Towe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Stewart Towe CBE,
Chairman,
Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership

CC Leader, Birmingham CC
Chairman, Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP