



To: Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change: Councillor Tim Ward
Report by: Head of Planning Services
Relevant scrutiny committee: Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee 17/07/2012
Wards affected: All Wards

Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Key decision

1. Executive summary

1.1 The report provides an update since the Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire was agreed by the Cambridgeshire Authorities in Autumn 2010. An updated Joint Statement has been prepared for agreement to cover the period before a new non statutory spatial framework is agreed.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The report is being submitted to Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee for prior consideration and comment before decision by the Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change.
- 2.2 The Executive Councillor is recommended to approve the updated Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as set out in Appendix A. The previous statement is attached at Appendix B for information.

3. Background

3.1 There is a long history of joint working between the Cambridgeshire authorities to address the issues affecting Cambridgeshire and to establish a strategy for the future development of the County and sub-region. In summary, this approach stems back to the preparation and adoption of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan (2003) and the joint work undertaken as part of the review of the East of England Plan in 2008 and 2009.

- 3.2 Following the announcement from the coalition government in May 2010 that they intended to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies through the Localism Act, the Cambridgeshire Authorities agreed a joint position statement in Autumn 2010. This reiterated the commitment to delivering the existing development strategy, and continued joint working. For the City Council, this statement was agreed at Environment Scrutiny Committee in October 2010 and is attached for information at Appendix B.
- 3.3 Since the Joint Statement was agreed in 2010, a number of changes to the planning system have taken place. The Localism Act was established in November 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework was introduced in March 2012. In addition, the Council has started the review of the 2006 Cambridge Local Plan, with consultation on Issues and Options currently underway until 27 July 2012.
- 3.4 Under the Localism Act and National Planning Policy Framework, Councils have a formal duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those that relate to strategic priorities. Councils are required to work collaboratively to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans. The plan making authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence that they have successfully cooperated to plan for issues with cross boundary impacts when Local Plans and the County Transport Strategy are submitted for examination.
- 3.5 As part of the duty to cooperate, a Joint Strategic Planning Unit has been established for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A Member Governance Board has been set up and met on 5 July 2012. This Board will ensure that a coherent approach is taken to development strategies across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and that the duty to cooperate is actively addressed.
- 3.6 As part of early work undertaken by the Joint Strategic Planning Unit, an updated Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been prepared. Appendix A sets out the updated Joint Statement. This has been updated on the basis that it provides an opportunity to restate the commitment to joint working, particularly in light of the Joint Strategic Planning Unit, the Local Enterprise Partnership, the duty to co-operate and National Planning Policy Framework.

4. Implications

(a) **Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no direct financial safety implications arising from this report.

(b) **Staffing Implications**

4.2 There are no direct staffing implications from this report.

(c) **Equal Opportunities Implications**

4.3 There are no direct equal opportunity implications arising from this report.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

4.4 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

(e) **Consultation**

4.5 There are no direct consultation implications arising from this report.

(f) **Community Safety**

4.6 There are no direct community safety implications arising from this report.

5. **Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Localism Act 2011.
- National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012.

6. **Appendices**

- Appendix A – Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by the Local Authorities, 2012.
- Appendix B – Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire by the Cambridgeshire Authorities, 2010.

7. **Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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