



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 16/10/2012  
Wards affected: All Wards

**CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN - TOWARDS 2031**  
**Key Issues arising from Issues and Options Consultation & Timetable Update**

**Not a Key Decision**

**1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 The Local Plan is a key document for Cambridge. The current Local Plan was adopted in 2006. It sets out a vision, policies and proposals for future development and land use in Cambridge to 2016 and beyond.
- 1.2 The review of the Local Plan is currently underway. The Issues and Option stage has recently been completed with consultation on the Issues and Options Report taking place for six weeks between 15 June to 27 July 2012. The Issues and Options Report set out a series of issues and options relating to the future planning and development of the city over the 20 years and asked for people's views including local residents and other key stakeholders. All documents were available on the Council's website and at libraries for people to view. A series of exhibitions were also held across the City and over 11,000 comments have been received from 858 respondents.
- 1.3 This report sets out the key issues arising from the consultation for information as well as the current timetable, joint working arrangements and approach to preparing the next stages of the Plan.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 This report is being submitted to the 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:

- a) To note the key issues arising from the consultation on the Issues and Options Report (Appendix A);
- b) To note the current timetable and ongoing approach to the duty to cooperate and joint working (paragraphs 3.21 to 3.23); and
- c) To endorse the approach to preparing the next stages of the Plan as set out in paragraph 3.11.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Local Plan is a key document for Cambridge. The current Local Plan was adopted in 2006, and it sets out a vision, policies and proposals for future development and land use in Cambridge to 2016 and beyond.
- 3.2 The Council agreed in March 2011 to press ahead with the review of the Local Plan, with the aim of having a new Local Plan adopted by April 2014. Since March 2011, the Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have both come into effect. Whilst there have not been any substantial changes to the way plans are prepared, the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies means that future levels of housing and employment provision should be set through Local Plans. The NPPF also gives a transitional period for Councils to update their plans to ensure consistency with the framework. Whilst the current Local Plan is considered to be in overall conformity with the NPPF, it is important that the Council continues to move forward with the review and make progress.
- 3.3 The preparation of a Local Plan involves a number of stages, including public consultation. As part of an early stage, the Council has undertaken a significant amount of evidence base studies in order to inform the development of issues and options including workshops and one to one meetings with various stakeholders. The Issues and Options stage pulls all of this information together in a report which outlines the types of issues facing the city over the next 20 years and the potential policy options that will need to be put in place to address those challenges.
- 3.4 The Issues and Options Report was agreed for consultation at Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee on 29 May 2012 (<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/democracy/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=184&MId=681&Ver=4>) and consultation took place for six weeks between 15 June to 27 July 2012. The report included a vision, strategic objectives, and specific chapters relating to the future spatial strategy, possible opportunity areas and other topic areas.

3.5 In accordance with the Consultation and Community Engagement Strategy<sup>1</sup>, consultation arrangements included:

- Consultation for 6 weeks between 15 June to 27 July 2012;
- Letters and emails informing consultees of consultation dates and how to view and respond to the consultation material;
- A public notice;
- All documents were made available on the Council’s website and Customer Service Centre including a small exhibition;
- Libraries received hard copies for people to access and view;
- An article on the Issues and Options Report and consultation arrangements in the summer edition of Cambridge Matters, which is issued to every household in the city;
- A specific Local Plan news blog was developed in order to provide information as well as using the Council’s Twitter page to provide updates.
- An interactive response form was available online, as well as making electronic forms available. Letters and emails were also accepted as part of the process in order to maximise the number of responses. Comments on every part of the Issues and Options Report were also accepted.

3.6 A series of exhibitions across the city were also held:

<b>Organisation/Event</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Where</b>
West Cambridge Exhibition	Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> June 3pm - 8 pm	West Cambridge Sports Pavillion, Wilberforce Road, CB3 0EQ
North Cambridge Exhibition	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 10am - 3pm	The Meadows Community Centre
East Cambridge Exhibition	Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> June 3pm - 8 pm	Barnwell Baptist Church
South West Cambridge Exhibition	Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> June 10am - 3pm	Trumpington Village Hall
South East Cambridge Exhibition	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 3.30pm - 8 pm	Cherry Hinton Village Centre
Central Cambridge Exhibition	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> July 10am - 8 pm	Small Hall – Guildhall
Central Cambridge Exhibition	Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> July 10am - 3pm	The Big Weekend
North East Cambridge Exhibition	Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> July 3pm - 8 pm	Brown’s Field Community Centre
Central Cambridge Exhibition	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> July 10am - 8 pm	Small Hall – Guildhall
East Cambridge Exhibition	Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> July 1pm - 5pm	Ross Street Community Centre

<sup>1</sup> Accessible at <http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan-review/>

Organisation/Event	Dates	Where
South Cambridge Exhibition	25 <sup>th</sup> July 12pm to 2pm	Addenbrooke's Concourse

- 3.7 A further exhibition was organised at Newnham Croft Primary School on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Whilst some exhibitions were more popular than others, over 350 people attended the exhibitions. The County Council were present at all exhibitions as part of the consultation on the first stage of the Transport Strategy.
- 3.8 A specific event was organised by FeCRA, primarily for Resident Associations, on 16 June 2012. This event was well attended and received. Officers also attended other resident association meetings to discuss the Issues and Options Report and how to respond. An exhibition stall was staffed at the Big Weekend on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and the Travel to Work Electric Car Event on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Leaflets were also given out at Cambridge Station on a number of separate occasions as well as at Addenbrooke's.
- 3.9 The Cambridge News also ran a series of articles during the consultation period and advertised the exhibitions.

### **Key Issues**

- 3.10 Over 11,000 comments have been received to the Issues and Options Report and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal from 858 respondents. This is an excellent response, and is very encouraging as part of the first main stage of consultation. All comments have been registered and a quality check of those comments is almost complete. This has been undertaken to ensure that all comments are tied to the relevant parts of the report.
- 3.11 Appendix A includes a summary of the key issues. The appendix has been structured by chapter of the Issues and Options Report and key issues pulled out for each option. This is just for information at this stage prior to more detailed reports being presented to Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee between November 2012 to January 2013. These future reports will analyse the comments received and options to take forward in more detail and seek a steer from Members on the approach to take forward in the draft plan. Officers then propose to draft the relevant policies for each chapter and present to Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee at the end of March 2013. The draft Plan for consultation will be considered by Environment Scrutiny Committee and Full Council in May 2013. A schedule of future reports to Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee is outlined in Appendix B.

### 3.12 The key issues which received most interest and comment relate to:

- The need for a joint plan with South Cambridgeshire District Council in order to plan for housing and employment provision across the two areas;
- Recognition of housing need but significant concern about the environmental impacts as well as the ability for appropriate infrastructure to be provided;
- Mixed support for further development in the Green Belt. Many respondents made the point that the Green Belt should be protected;
- The majority of the land within the broad locations are considered to be important to the setting and special character of the City;
- Support for the continued redevelopment at the station and the fringe sites developments at the Southern Fringe and North West Cambridge.
- Concern about the capacity in the City Centre, especially in relation to space and the quality of the public realm;
- Support for employment led development at Northern Fringe East although other uses have been suggested;
- General support for the opportunity areas put forward along with suggestions for other opportunity areas such as Mitcham's corner;
- Support for being ambitious in relation to climate change and water related policies although concern about viability and implementation;
- Support for options relating to design, historic environment, landscape and biodiversity;
- Mixed support for options relating to density, tall buildings, space standards and lifetime homes;
- Support for employment provision although concern about the lack of land for provision;
- Support for local, independent shops and diversity in centres;
- Support for a sub regional community stadium in principle although the majority of those in support live outside the city and are Cambridge United supporters. There was no overall support for a particular site;
- Support for an ice rink in Cambridge;
- Support for continued emphasis on non car modes;
- Support for a review of residential car parking standards to better reflect national guidelines; and
- Support for the option relating to timely provision of infrastructure.

- 3.13 A number of specific comments have been provided in relation to the Council's online consultation system. Officers have already provided comments to the company that supplies and maintains the system. Comments will also be taken on board as the consultation arrangements are made for the next round of consultation.
- 3.14 When considering joint issues affecting both Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, information will be provided to this committee on the responses made on these issues to South Cambridgeshire's Local Plan consultation. This will provide a fully rounded view of the concerns of local residents in both authorities and other stakeholders.

### **Issues and Options 2 – Consultation on Site Options**

- 3.14 In parallel to analysing the comments received to the Issues and Options Report and pulling the draft Plan together, consultation on site options for a range of uses is scheduled for January to February 2013. A separate report to this committee outlines the methodology for this work. The consultation will outline potential sites for allocation in the new Local Plan and give local residents and other stakeholders the opportunity to comment prior to consultation on the draft Plan in June and July 2013. It may also include other matters such as consultation on more detail in relation to car and cycle parking standards and space standards.
- 3.15 Part of this consultation will be joint with South Cambridgeshire District Council and will include site options on the edge of Cambridge as well as providing appropriate context on the development strategy alternatives for the wider Cambridge area.

### **Duty to Co-operate and Joint Working Arrangements**

- 3.16 The Council has a duty to cooperate with South Cambridgeshire District Council, the County Council, other districts and public bodies as part of preparing the new Local Plan. This requirement introduced by the Localism Act, requires the Council to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis on 'strategic matters' regarding sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas. The NPPF says that Councils should work collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly coordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans.
- 3.17 The Council will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for cross boundary impacts when the

Local Plan is submitted for examination, as will South Cambridgeshire District Council. The on-going approach to joint working is therefore now a specific legal requirement and it will be necessary to provide formal evidence of the cooperation as part of the plan making process. However, the NPPF is not prescriptive about how Councils work together or how evidence of co-operation should be presented.

- 3.18 Whilst Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are preparing separate plans, this does not prevent a comprehensive approach being developed and sound arrangements have been put in place in order to ensure this. Given the close functional relationship between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, the Councils are working jointly to ensure that cross boundary issues and relevant wider matters are addressed in a consistent and joined up manner. The Councils have been working together throughout the preparation of the Issues and Options consultations on the Local Plans, and also the parallel consultation on issues for a new Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.
- 3.19 In addition, the Council has constructively responded to South Cambridgeshire's Issues and Option consultation and consultation on the Transport Strategy. Both of the responses were agreed at Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee on 11 September 2012 (<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/democracy/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=184&MIId=686&Ver=4>).
- 3.20 It is recognised that there is a close link between planning for growth and development and for transport and accessibility to ensure that growth can be accommodated in the most sustainable way and that people can access the services and facilities they need in an efficient and affordable way. A key part of developing and delivering a sustainable development strategy for this area involves the preparation of a long-term transport strategy which takes into account planned growth. An important aspect of identifying the preferred development strategy will be testing the transport implications by modelling using the Cambridgeshire Sub Regional Model to assess likely implications of development in terms of impact on network, journey time, commuting patterns and impacts on accessibility. This will also consider what measures and enhancements might be put in place to help mitigate impacts of development and enhance accessibility. This work will take place as part of the preparation of the Transport Strategy and will form part of the evidence base to the new Local Plans.

## **Timetable**

3.21 The Council will continue to work jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council and the County Council as plan preparation continues. Officers have jointly reviewed the Local Plan and Transport Strategy timetables. The aim has been to align the Councils' timetables as far as possible at least to the Submission Local Plan stage. A revised timetable is included below, which shows that the Local Plan timetables are now aligned for Issues and Options 2 (January – February 2013) and Draft Local Plan consultation (June – July 2013) and only a month apart for the Submission stage (Cambridge – October 2013, South Cambs – November 2013). It also shows that the Transport Strategy will follow the Local Plan timetable, with the final Transport Strategy forming a supporting document for the plans.

<b>Key Stages in preparing the new Local Plans / Transport Strategy</b>	<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>South Cambridgeshire</b>	<b>County Council</b>
Issues and Options public consultation	June to July 2012	July to September 2012	June to September 2012
Site Options Consultation & Growth options for Assessment for Transport Strategy	January to February 2013	January to February 2013	January to February 2013
Public consultation on Draft Local Plan & Transport Strategy	June to July 2013	June to July 2013	June to July 2013
Submit the Local Plans to the Secretary of State	October 2013	November 2013	October 2013

3.22 The timetable after Submission of the Local Plan will be largely determined by the Planning Inspectorate and will be affected by availability of Inspectors (having regard to the demand from the many authorities now preparing new plans) and the way the Inspectorate wishes to run the two examinations, given the close functional relationship between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. Discussions are planned with the Inspectorate in Autumn 2012 which will help give more clarity on the likely adoption date of the respective Local Plans.

3.23 A report outlining the above position in relation to the duty to cooperate, joint working and current timetables was noted by the Joint Strategic Transport and Spatial Planning Group on 13 September 2013

(<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CMSWebsite/Apps/Committees/Agendaltem.aspx?agendaltemID=5836> ) and a further meeting of this group is being scheduled for the end of November to discuss the joint



Issues and Options 2 consultation (site options) prior to it being considered and agreed for consultation by Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee in December 2013 (South Cambridgeshire will also be holding a separate meeting in parallel). This joint consultation will also include site options on the edge of Cambridge, and for Cambridge will include site options for a range of uses across the urban area of the city.

## **Next Steps**

- 3.24 More detailed reports analysing the comments received to the Issues and Options Report and seeking a steer on the way forward will be presented to Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee between November 2012 to January 2013. Following this, the draft plan will be put together and presented to Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee at the end of March 2013 prior to it being considered by Environment Scrutiny Committee and full Council in May 2013.
- 3.25 In parallel to this, officers will be undertaking site assessment work and preparing for Issues and Options 2 consultation in January 2013. A separate report on this will be presented to Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee in December 2012 and will be seeking agreement to consult between January to February 2013.

## **4. Implications**

### **(a) Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The cost of preparing a new Local Plan is a significant one but this has been budgeted for.

### **(b) Staffing Implications (if not covered in Consultations Section)**

- 4.2 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

### **(c) Equal Opportunities Implications**

- 4.3 There are no direct equal opportunity arising from this report. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be prepared as part of the draft Plan stage.

### **(d) Environmental Implications**

- 4.4 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report. The new Local Plan for Cambridge will assist in the delivery of high

quality and sustainable new developments along with protecting and enhancing the built and natural environments in the City. This will include measures to help Cambridge adapt to the changing climate as well as measures to reduce carbon emissions from new development. Overall there should be a positive climate change impact.

**(e) Procurement**

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

**(f) Consultation and communication**

4.6 The consultation and communications arrangements for the Issues and Options consultation are set out in paragraphs 3.5 to 3.9. These are consistent with the agreed Consultation and Community Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan Review, 2012 Regulations and the Council's code of best practice on consultation and community engagement.

**(g) Community Safety**

4.7 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:

- Cambridge Local Plan – Towards 2031 Issues and Options Report June 2012;  
<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/docs/local-plan-review-issues-and-options-report.pdf>
- National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>

## **6. Appendices**

Appendix A – Key Issues arising from Issues and Options consultation

Appendix B – Forward Plan of Meeting for Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee

## **7. Inspection of papers**

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

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