



To: Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change: Councillor Tim Ward
Report by: Head of Planning
Relevant scrutiny committee: Development Plan 13/11/2012
Scrutiny Sub Committee
Wards affected: All Wards

CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN - TOWARDS 2031

Approach to draft Plan - vision, objectives and climate change.

Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

1.1 The Local Plan is a key document for Cambridge, and the review of the current Local Plan is currently underway. Following on from consultation on the Issues and Options Report, which took place between June and July 2012, officers are working on the analysis of the comments received to the consultation and developing the preferred approach to take forward into the draft Plan. It has previously been agreed that future reports would be brought to Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee to analyse the comments received and options to take forward in more detail in order to seek a steer from Members on the approach to take forward in the draft Plan.

1.2 This report considers the approach to be taken forward in relation to the Vision and Objectives and the Climate Change section of the Issues and Options Report as part of developing the content of the new 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:

- To consider the key issues related to vision, objectives and climate change as set out in Appendices A and B; and
- To endorse the response and approach to take forward in the draft Plan, as set out in Appendices A and B and tables 1 and 2.

3. Background

The Issues and Options Report

- 3.1 The Local Plan is a key document for Cambridge. The current Local Plan was adopted in 2006, and sets out a vision, policies and proposals for future development and land use in Cambridge to 2016 and beyond.
- 3.2 The Issues and Options Report included a vision, strategic objectives, and specific chapters relating to the future spatial strategy, possible opportunity areas and other topic areas. Over 11,000 representations were received, and the key issues raised were presented to Development Plan Scrutiny Committee on the 16th October 2012. For further information, please see the following link:
<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/democracy/documents/s13919/Local%20Plan%20Key%20Issues%20and%20Timetable%20Update.pdf>
- 3.3 At this committee, it was agreed that future reports would be brought to committee to analyse the comments received and options to take forward in more detail in order to seek a steer from Members on the approach to take forward in the draft Plan. This report considers the approach to be taken forward in relation to the Vision and Objectives and the Climate Change section of the Issues and Options Report as part of developing the content of the new Plan.

Responses and Preferred Approach

- 3.4 Appendix A contain the officer analysis of the key issues raised for the vision and objectives, as well as summaries of the representations received. Appendix B contains the same for the climate change section. The appendices have been structured around each of the issues and associated options set out in the Issues and Options Report. For each of the options consulted on, the key issues raised during consultation have been identified. A summary of the analysis of the options from the Interim Sustainability Appraisal has been provided, along with the Council's evidence base. An officer analysis of the key issues raised is then provided alongside a recommendation as to the approach that should be taken forward into the draft Plan, which will be subject to consultation from June to July 2013. Due to the large volume of representations received, it is not possible to provide detailed responses to every one at this stage. It is suggested that the analysis and recommendation forms the response to the representations.
- 3.5 At this stage, detailed policy wording has not been provided, but

sufficient detail of the evidence behind potential policy options has been provided to give Members a steer as to what would be included in the policy. Following on from this committee, officers will draft the relevant policies, which will be presented to Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee at the end of March 2013.

- 3.6 A breakdown of the number of representations received to each of the issues has also been included, including the number of supports and objections raised. For each issue, a tally of all of the representations received to that section of the Issues and Options Report has been taken; this includes representations received to the paragraphs, options and questions contained within each section. In some instances respondents have chosen to focus their comments on the policy options, while others have focussed on responding to the questions raised. It should be noted that in some instances, objections contain qualified support for an option, i.e. that they support the general principle of an option but feel that it does not go far enough in responding to certain issues. Officers have taken this into account when analysing representations and proposing a preferred approach.

Vision and Objectives

- 3.7 Chapter 2 of the Issues and Options Report set out a new vision and strategic objectives for Cambridge towards 2031. The chapter recognises that the existing vision for Cambridge in the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 has been very effective. However, the Issues and Options Report acknowledged that the current vision may not encompass all the elements now needed to act as key drivers for the ongoing growth and success of the city and needs to be updated. Option 1 sets out twelve main areas at the heart of the revised vision for Cambridge. The eighteen strategic objectives elaborate upon the vision and represent broad intentions of purpose that the more detailed policies and proposals within the new Local Plan will strive to deliver.
- 3.8 Whilst the new vision and strategic objectives were broadly supported, respondents raised additional detail on a wide range of issues that they considered worthy of inclusion. Additionally, concern was raised about the need for greater integration of the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans and Cambridgeshire County Council's Transport Strategy.
- 3.9 Appendix A contain the officer analysis of the key issues raised for the vision and objectives, as well as summaries of the representations received.

Table 1: Recommended preferred approach for Vision and Objectives

OPTION/OBJECTIVE NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION	PREFERRED APPROACH FOR DRAFT PLAN
Option 1 – Cambridge 2031 Vision	The recommended approach is to pursue the approach taken in the proposed Option 1 – Cambridge 2031 Vision, subject to detailed consideration during the drafting of policies within the Local Plan to ascertain whether it provides appropriate coverage of relevant strategic issues. The Vision and all strategic objectives will need to reflect policies being taken forward.
Strategic objectives 1 - 18	The objectives and all comments received have all been carefully assessed and the objectives are considered to remain appropriate at this stage. However, as part of working through each topic and developing policies, it may be that future amendments need to be made to the strategic objectives as a result. This is to ensure that all strategic objectives will reflect the policies being taken forward.

Climate Change

3.10 Chapter 6 of the Issues and Options Report considered policy approaches required to ensure that Cambridge develops in the most sustainable way possible. This chapter focussed on policy approaches for both climate change adaptation and mitigation. Climate change mitigation focuses in designing new communities and buildings to be energy and resource efficient, utilising renewable and low carbon energy generation and promoting patterns of development that reduce the need to travel by less environmentally friendly modes of transport. This is covered in Options 42 – 48 and Option 50. Climate change adaptation focuses on ensuring that new developments and the wider community are adaptable to our changing climate, covered by Option 49. For the city, this is likely to involve an increase in the urban heat island effect due to increasing temperatures and an increase in flooding, both from rivers and watercourses and from surface water flooding following periods of intense rainfall. It should be noted that local planning authorities are

required through the Planning Act (2008) to develop policies that relate to both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- 3.11 On the whole there was a strong level of support from respondents for the Council to be seen to be leading that way in responding to the challenges presented by climate change, water and flooding. There was a view that the Council should be ambitious in setting targets in relation to carbon reduction and water efficiency, with many respondents recognising the seriousness of the issue of water scarcity for Cambridge. Concerns were raised as to the impact of future policy on the viability of new development and consistency with the national zero carbon policy agenda. In line with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), viability is a key consideration when developing policy requirements, and this has been taken into consideration in the evidence base produced to support the development of climate change policy.
- 3.12 Appendix B contain the officer analysis of the key issues raised for climate change, as well as summaries of the representations received.

Table 2: Recommended preferred approach for climate change

OPTION NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION	PREFERRED APPROACH FOR DRAFT PLAN
Option 41: Strategic priority – Innovative and sustainable communities	The recommendation is to pursue option 41 and develop a strategic objective focussed on innovative and sustainable communities. Additional reference will be made to support for community energy schemes and the role of sustainable modes of transport in reducing carbon emissions.

<p>Option 42: Develop a comprehensive sustainable development policy</p>	<p>The recommendation is to pursue Option 42 with emphasis placed on the importance of ensure that the principles of sustainable design and construction is integrated in the design of all new developments. Reference will be added to the need to make efficient use of land, and the encouragement of mixed-use development, as well as promoting the use of materials with low embodied energy and the promotion of local skills development. This policy area will also include a definition of sustainable development, either as part of the supporting text or policy wording itself.</p>
<p>Option 43: Sustainable construction standards</p>	<p>The recommendation is to pursue Option 43, with a minimum of Code Level 4 being sought for new housing and BREEAM 'very good' being sought up to 2016 with BREEAM excellent from 2016 onwards. This could form part of an overarching sustainable construction standards policy, which will also include carbon reduction requirements, water efficiency requirements and links to the development of a Cambridgeshire Community Energy Fund.</p>
<p>Option 44: Detailed targets for on-site carbon reduction that relate to the levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes being sought.</p>	<p>For non-residential development the recommended approach is to develop a carbon reduction policy linked to the timetable for introducing zero carbon non-residential buildings in 2019.</p>
<p>Option 45: Detailed targets for on-site carbon emissions reductions in line with the findings of Decarbonising Cambridge</p>	<p>With regards to the approach for residential development, it is recommended that Option 44 is pursued, but with flexibility to allow for further investigation of the viability of pursuing</p>

<p>Option 46: Leave carbon reduction to Building Regulations and continue to operate a percentage renewable energy policy</p>	<p>Option 45 and Options 46. This flexibility would allow time for the implications of any changes from Government to be taken into account, and for further discussions with the CLG of the appropriateness of setting a higher level of carbon reduction than national zero carbon policy in light of the wording of the NPPF.</p> <p>This could form part of an overarching sustainable construction standards policy, which will include BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes requirements, water efficiency requirements, and links to the development of a Cambridgeshire Community Energy Fund.</p>
<p>Option 47: Establishment of a Cambridgeshire Community Energy Fund</p>	<p>The recommendation is to continue to explore option 47 and the potential to develop a policy to enable the establishment of a Cambridgeshire Community Energy Fund and identify of eligible projects. This will be subject to ongoing discussions with national government with regards to the timescales and practical arrangements for the establishment of Allowable Solutions.</p> <p>This could form part of an overarching sustainable construction policy, which will include carbon reduction requirements, BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes requirements and water efficiency standards.</p>
<p>Option 48: Renewable and low carbon energy generation</p>	<p>The recommendation is to pursue option 48, which will set out the a positive policy approach for supporting renewable and low carbon energy generation proposals, while at the same time ensuring that any adverse impacts are minimised. As part of this policy, a strategic district heating area covering the city centre will be identified, with developments within this area being required to connect to a heat network should one become available.</p>

Option 49: Climate change adaptation	The recommendation is to pursue Option 49. This would see the development of a policy requiring the integration of climate change adaptation measures into the overall design of new developments. Compliance with the policy would need to be demonstrated as part of Design and Access Statements, which will need to illustrate how climate change adaptation measures have been integrated into areas such as the layout, scale and landscaping of new developments.
Option 50: Consequential improvements policy	The recommendation is to pursue option 50 and introduce a consequential improvements policy, which will look to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures in homes undergoing improvement works for which planning permission is required. Consideration will also be given to the retrofitting of simple water efficiency measures, such as water metres and low flow appliances. The policy should be linked to the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation, to help reduce costs for homeowners. Applicants would be asked to complete a simple home energy questionnaire, from which a home energy report would be produced, recommending possible measures to be implemented.

Next steps

3.13 Following on from this committee, and subsequent committees to provide a steer on the preferred approach for other topic areas, officers will be drafting policy wording in line with the agreed approach. Draft policies will be presented to this committee at the end of March 2013 for consideration, prior to consideration of the entire new Local Plan at Environment Scrutiny Committee. The draft plan will then be made available for a six-week period of public consultation, prior to being formally submitted to the Secretary of States for examination.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Policy recommendations will be considered as part of the review of the Local Plan, which has already been included within existing budget plans.

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

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report. The review of the Local Plan has already been included in existing work plans.

(c) **Equal Opportunities Implications**

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

(d) **Environmental Implications**

The new Local Plan for Cambridge will assist in the delivery of high quality and sustainable new development 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, as considered within this committee report. Overall there should be a positive climate change impact.

(e) **Procurement**

There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

The consultation and communications arrangements for the Local Plan are consistent with the agreed Consultation and Community Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan Review, 2012 Regulations and the Council's Code for Best Practice on Consultation and Community Engagement.

(g) **Community Safety**

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: Analysis, responses and preferred approach to the Vision and Objectives, plus summaries of representations received;
- Appendix B: Analysis, responses and preferred approach to the Climate Change section, plus summaries of representations received.

7. Inspection of papers

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

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