



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 10/09/2013
Wards affected: All Wards

PROPOSED CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S DRAFT TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR CAMBRIDGE AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE (TSC&SC)

Non Key Decision

1. Background

- 1.1 The City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council have a long history of joint working on planning matters, particularly on plan-making. As part of the duty to cooperate, the three councils have agreed to work collaboratively and in parallel on new local plans and a transport strategy for the Cambridge area. This approach will ensure that cross-boundary issues and relevant wider matters are addressed in a consistent and joined-up manner.
- 1.2 Members will be aware that on 19 July 2013, the City Council published its Local Plan – Proposed Submission document for consultation until 30 September 2013. On the same day, Cambridgeshire County Council published its Draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.
- 1.3 In appraising the draft strategy, the key issue for the City Council is to ensure that the draft strategy reflects the strategic transport aspirations for Cambridge and the sub-region, and helps secure the implementation of the City Council and South Cambridgeshire's local plans.
- 1.4 This report includes representations to the draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (Appendix A)

for submission to Cambridgeshire County Council following member steer at Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

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 agree the representations to the Draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire set out in Appendix A and that these are submitted to Cambridgeshire County Council as Cambridge City Council's formal response to the consultation.

3. Plan making and the Duty to Co-operate

- 3.1 At the start of this year, the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (the East of England Plan) was formally revoked by statutory instrument, along with its addendum relating to Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. At the same time, all of the remaining policies from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 were revoked. This means that there is no longer any requirement for the emerging local plans in Cambridgeshire to comply with, or have regard to, any "higher level" strategic development plan (although each plan will be tested for its consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework).
- 3.2 An important obligation introduced by the Localism Act 2011 is the "duty to co-operate", which requires local planning authorities and a wide range of other bodies to co-operate with one another in certain defined activities relating to plan making. In Cambridge's case, co-operation between the City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council has been, and will continue to be, critical. At the strategic level, the approach to identifying objectively assessed needs for homes and jobs and to strategic issues has been set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Memorandum of Co-operation and Spatial Approach. For transport issues this is being addressed through the preparation of the TSC&S.
- 3.3 "Co-operation" does not necessarily mean that there must be complete agreement by all parties on every aspect of the Plan;

but there must be evidence of joint-working wherever appropriate and attempts to agree on such matters as an evidence base, infrastructure needs, cross-boundary development needs etc. Transport issues are fundamental in delivering an appropriate sustainable development strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

4. The Draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSC&SC)

4.1 The Draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire covers the following areas:

- The strategy's vision and objectives;
- Funding, delivery and review of the strategy;
- Transport modes – the development of the transport strategy for walking, cycling, passenger transport, freight etc;
- High level programme of interventions in specific areas/corridors into the city.

5. Summary of the Council's suggested response

5.1 The development of a transport strategy that takes a long-term view of the needs of Cambridge and the sub-region, and that also seeks to address the transport implications of the sustainable development strategies set out in the draft local plans is fundamentally welcomed.

5.2 The strategy has been produced and subject to consultation in parallel with the emerging local plans and this has enabled transport issues to be appropriately considered in the production of new development plans for the wider area. Whilst there are further necessary iterations in the completion of the TSC&SC, for example to develop an action and investment plan as part of the strategy, the development of the strategy to this stage and beyond is supported.

5.3 The suggested response to the strategy consultation is set out in Appendix A. Key issues of interest for Cambridge include the approach to demand management for vehicles entering the city, public transport improvements within Cambridge and along corridors serving Cambridge, investment in new and improved walking and cycling infrastructure and the implications of the strategy for improvements to air quality management in the city.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 That Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee asks the Executive Councillor to agree the suggested consultation response set out in Appendix A.

7. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Funding for transport infrastructure is a key issue for implementation of the TSC&SC.

(b) Staffing Implications

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

(c) Equal Opportunities Implications

- 7.3 There are no direct equal opportunities impacts arising from this report.

(d) Environmental Implications

- 7.4 Decisions made in the process of producing the new Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire have scope to have direct environmental implications for the city. Cambridge City Council will work with Cambridgeshire County Council to ensure the most sustainable outcomes for the area.

(e) Consultation

- 7.5 There are no direct consultation implications arising from this report.

(f) Community Safety

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

8. Background Papers

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

- Draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

9. Appendices

- Appendix A: Proposed Representations on the Draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

10. Inspection of papers

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

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