

CAMBRIDGE AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL PLANS: PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS – REPORT ON CONSULTATION MARCH 2016

To: Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire, County Council Joint Strategic Transport and Spatial Planning Group

From: Director of Environment, Cambridge City Council
Director for Planning and New Communities, South Cambridgeshire District Council

Date: 14 March 2016

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report follows on from the Councils' consultation on proposed modifications to the Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan held between 2 December 2015 and 25 January 2016.
- 1.2. The Councils have considered all the representations received and assessed (in light of the issues raised) whether the Proposed Modifications should be submitted to the Inspectors as consulted on, with amendments or not at all. Any new Proposed Modifications considered necessary in response to issues raised during the consultation have also been identified. Appendix A (Proposed Modifications - Report on Consultation March 2016) identifies the number of representations received to each proposed modification, provides a summary of the key issues raised, and the Councils' assessment. The Councils have assessed the representations and key issues for each modification and topic area and taken the appropriate action to:
 - a) carry forward the proposed modification as consulted on;
 - b) carry forward the proposed modification with amendments, and/or;
 - c) include a new proposed modification.
- 1.3. The proposed modifications for the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans recommended for submission to the Local Plan Inspectors are contained in Appendix B and C respectively.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The group is asked to:
 - Consider the Report on Consultation at Appendix A, the Proposed Modifications to the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans (Appendices B and C respectively) and the Supplement to the Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (Appendix E) and recommend that they be agreed by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council at their respective committee meetings on 14 March 2016 and Special Council meetings on 23 March 2016.
- 2.2 The views of this group will be reported to and considered by the relevant decision making bodies of each Council as part of their decision making process. For the City Council, it will be considered by the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport at Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee on 14 March 2016 and for South Cambridgeshire, it will be considered by the Planning Portfolio Holder at a meeting on 14 March 2016. If agreed, they will be considered by Special Council meetings of each Council on 23 March 2016. If approved the proposed modifications

and supporting documentation will be submitted to the Planning Inspectors for consideration.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Councils submitted the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans for examination on 28 March 2014. The separate plans were prepared in parallel with joint working throughout the process in recognition of the close functional relationship between the two areas and reflecting the duty to cooperate.
- 3.2 Joint examination hearings on strategic issues were held between November 2014 and April 2015 on topics such as: housing and employment needs, development strategy, Green Belt, transport, infrastructure and housing supply.
- 3.3 Subsequently, the Inspectors wrote to the Councils on 20 May 2015 in relation to three main issues (objectively assessed need for new housing, overall development strategy and conformity with revisions to National Planning Policy since the Local Plans were submitted for examination) and invited the Councils to undertake additional work to address those issues before the examinations progress further. The Councils agreed to undertake additional work and the examinations were formally suspended on 28 July 2015 until March 2016.
- 3.4 Additional work was carried out in response to the Inspectors' issues, which fed into the creation of the Councils' Proposed Modifications consultation document. The consultation document and supporting documentation was discussed at Joint Strategic Transport and Spatial Planning Group on 16 November 2015 and approved by the Councils for consultation on 30 November 2015. Consultation on proposed modifications to the Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and associated Sustainability Appraisal Addendum Report was held between 2 December 2015 and 25 January 2016.
- 3.5 The consultation received a total of 1,037 representations. This comprises 894 representations to the Proposed Modifications Consultation Document (249 supports and 645 objections) and 143 to the Sustainability Addendum Report (9 supports and 134 objections). In total, 222 individuals, groups and organisations responded to the consultation. All representations can be viewed in full at: <http://scambs.jdi-consult.net/localplan/index.php>.
- 3.6 In terms of the representations received, whilst there is support for the Local Plans, there continues to be challenges to the overall development strategy and objectively assessed need for new housing. Objectors consider that the housing numbers in the plans should be higher and that development should be directed towards the edge of Cambridge in the Green Belt and at villages instead of new settlements due to delivery issues. In addition, the Councils' further work and evidence base has been criticised specifically in relation to Green Belt, approach to objectively assessed need for new housing, delivery of new settlements, transport and the overall development strategy.
- 3.7 Following consultation, the Councils have assessed the representations and key issues for each modification and topic area and taken the appropriate action:
 - a) carry forward the proposed modification as consulted on;
 - b) carry forward the proposed modification with amendments, and/or;
 - c) include a new proposed modification.

- 3.8 A summary of key issues and the Councils' assessment are provided in chapters 3,4 and 5 of the consultation report (see Appendix A). Assessment tables for each proposed modification are also provided as part of the Report on Consultation. A stand alone summary of representations is also provided for information only at Appendix D.
- 3.9 All of the representation received have been assessed and considered alongside the Councils' evidence base. As part of this process, the consultants who prepared the evidence documents that support the response to the Inspectors' letter have considered issues raised on their reports and in the case of housing needs and Green Belt, they have prepared supplements to their reports to assist the Inspectors. Further evidence to support the response has also been provided. The City Deal Executive Board agreed on 3 March to a position statement that confirms its commitment to deliver its infrastructure programme for the benefit of existing and future residents including supporting and securing development identified in the Local Plans through the delivery of key infrastructure schemes. Additional evidence base documents have also been prepared to provide evidence of the deliverability of transport schemes on the A10 and A428 corridors to serve the major new developments proposed in the development strategy. In bringing these considerations together, it is considered that the Councils approach to objectively assessed need for new housing and overall development strategy remains appropriate.
- 3.10 The majority of the proposed modifications consulted on remain unchanged. However, a few amendments are proposed in light of the consultation. A summary of the proposed modifications that have been amended and new proposed modifications that are proposed is provided below:

Cambridge Local Plan:

- Additional text relating to the Development Strategy to reflect the further work undertaken (PM/CC/2/E)
- New modification to include Newbury Farm (0.9ha) within the GB2 allocation. This extends the line of the eastern boundary down to Babraham Road and is consistent with the finding of the Cambridge Inner Green Belt boundary study (2015) (PM/CC/2/A(i), PM/CC/B/B, PM/CC/Policies Map/B)
- Correction to the housing number relating to the total housing provision in the Cambridge urban area to read 6828 not 6282 (PM/CC/2/I(i))
- Additional text relating to listed buildings and the application of Policy 27 (Sustainable Design and Construction) in order to ensure no harm to heritage assets (PM/CC/4/A(i)).

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan:

- Provisional Modification to allocate land south of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus (Policy E/1B) is recommended to be deferred, in order to obtain further evidence (PM/SC/8/A). The deferment will also apply to the following proposed modifications insofar as they relate to the proposed allocation on land south of the CBC (PM/SC/2/G, PM/SC/2/O, PM/SC/2/P, PM/SC/3/F, PM/SC/8/B)
- Additional text relating to the Development Strategy and the further work undertaken (PM/SC/2/C)
- Correction to the housing number relating to the total housing provision in the Cambridge urban area to read 6828 not 6282 (PM/SC/2/E)
- Policy H/8 Housing Mix - additional wording added to sub section (g) in relation to self and custom build houses to reflect that self and custom build is not likely to be practical in high density multi storey flatted developments (PM/SC/7/G).

3.11 The final proposed modifications for the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans are contained in Appendices B and C respectively. A Supplement to the Sustainability Appraisal Addendum has also been prepared and is set out in Appendix E. Additionally, in some instances, further evidence has been provided to support the proposed modification, or a new/amended proposed modification. This further evidence can be found in Appendices F to J.

4. Next steps

4.1 The views of this group will be reported to and considered by the relevant decision making bodies of each Council as part of their decision making process. For the City Council, it will be considered by the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport at Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee on 14 March 2016 and for South Cambridgeshire, it will be considered by the Planning Portfolio Holder at a meeting on 14 March 2016. The proposed modifications will then be considered by both Councils on 23 March 2016. Following this, if agreed, the Councils will then submit the proposed modifications and supporting documentation to the Planning Inspectors for consideration.

5. Background papers

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

- Cambridge Local Plan 2014: Proposed Submission:
https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/draft_submission/Full%20Plan/Full%20Draft%20Plan%20with%20title%20pages%20reduced%20size.pdf
- South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2014: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/localplan>

5. Appendices

Appendix A	Report on Consultation
Appendix B	Modifications Schedule to the Cambridge Local Plan
Appendix C	Modifications Schedule to the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan
Appendix D	Summary of Representations
Appendix E	Supplement to the Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (November 2015)
Appendix F	Supplement to Objectively Assessed Housing Need: Further Evidence (November 2015)
Appendix G	Supplement to Cambridge Inner Green Belt Boundary Study (November 2015)
Appendix H	City Deal and the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans
Appendix I	A428 Constraints Report
Appendix J	A10(N) Corridor Constraints Study

6. Inspection of papers

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

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