



To: Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport: Councillor Kevin Blencowe

Report by: Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

Relevant scrutiny committee: Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee 27 July 2017

Wards affected: All Wards

CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION – FURTHER PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS FOR APPENDIX M: MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans are currently being examined by independent Planning Inspectors. The Inspectors asked the Councils to review the monitoring framework and requirements set out in their respective Local Plans to ensure that the monitoring indicators were SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound).
- 1.2 The Councils have worked together to review their monitoring requirements and indicators, and where appropriate have made their requirements and indicators consistent. Modifications are proposed in order to make the plan sound.
- 1.3 This report addresses the proposed modifications to *Appendix M: Monitoring & Implementation* of the emerging Cambridge Local Plan, which, if approved by the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport, would be submitted to the Planning Inspectors for consideration.

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 Policy and Transport.
- 2.2 The Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport is recommended:
- To agree the proposed modifications to *Appendix M: Monitoring & Implementation* of the emerging Local Plan (Appendix A & B) for submission to the Inspectors examining the Local Plan;
 - To agree that delegated authority be given to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development to make any subsequent minor amendments and editing changes to Appendix M, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport, Chair and Spokes of Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee.

3. Background

- 3.1 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Councils submitted their respective Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans for examination on 28 March 2014. Examination hearing sessions were held from November 2014 to July 2017.
- 3.2 At the joint examination hearing session for Matter 5: Infrastructure / Monitoring / Viability in November 2014, the Inspectors asked the Councils to review the monitoring framework and requirements set out in their respective Local Plans to ensure that the monitoring indicators were SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) so that their Local Plans could be found sound in relation to this issue.
- 3.3 In letters to the Inspectors in September 2016¹, the Councils outlined that work on their respective monitoring frameworks was ongoing, and that they anticipated that any further proposed

¹ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/post-submission-correspondence-with-the-inspector>

modifications arising from it would be submitted to the Inspectors by the end of February 2017. The subsequent examination programme meant that this timetable did not prove to be possible and it was agreed with the Inspectors via the Programme Officer that a later date for completion of this work would not affect the overall examination programme.

- 3.4 The Councils have worked together to review their monitoring frameworks and requirements, including the monitoring indicators. Where appropriate they have made the monitoring indicators consistent in order to align monitoring processes and reduce resource implications, as the Councils are moving towards a shared Greater Cambridge planning service and joint Local Plan. This review identified that proposed modifications are necessary to make the Cambridge Local Plan sound. The review has also highlighted that proposed modifications are also necessary to make the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan sound.
- 3.5 Subject to the agreement of Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee, the Cambridge Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport and the South Cambridgeshire Planning Portfolio Holder, the Councils will jointly submit the modifications to their monitoring frameworks (Appendix A & B of this report for Cambridge specific modifications) and their associated audit trails (Appendix C) explaining the reasons for each of the modifications to the Planning Inspectors for consideration on 31 July 2017.

Cambridge Monitoring Modifications

- 3.6 All 85 policies were specifically identified within the original Monitoring Appendix as requiring assessment. The requirements for these policies were then assessed based on SMART criteria definitions. SMART criteria requires that monitoring is specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound.
- 3.7 At present, all policies within Cambridge Local Plan 2006 are monitored by counting how many times officers have used specific policies to inform planning application decisions. After data is gathered, annual meetings are held with Development Management to discuss if the usage of these policies appears reasonable and correct. Any potential policy implementation issues are discussed and, if required, officers implement effective solutions to address any policy ambiguity, issues or misuse. This

approach will not alter for the emerging Local Plan. All policy monitoring will be reported upon each year through the Council's Annual Monitoring Report.

- 3.8 Policies solely requiring monitoring via the above methodology are not considered SMART due to the lack of specific policy targets and triggers (to action a review of the policy due to underperformance) and are therefore proposed to be removed from the Appendix. Reasons for removal can be found in Appendix C. Additional text to explain this change and the continued commitment to monitor all policies through policy usage counts and discussion has been included in paragraph M.2 to M3 of the amended Monitoring Appendix (See Appendix A).
- 3.9 Further changes to the Monitoring Appendix were made based on the following findings:
- Some policy monitoring was not achievable due to lack of, or infrequency of data. This meant that the policy would not be considered measurable.
 - Some of the policies had monitoring requirements which were too onerous and required extensive time and resource. This meant that the monitoring would not be considered achievable.
 - Some monitoring requirements were too vague and would not provide usable evidence. This meant that the monitoring would not be considered specific or relevant.
 - Triggers to initiate the review of policies were not specific.
 - Some data was not specifically identified by source.
 - The timing of monitoring was not identified e.g. annually. This meant that the monitoring would not be considered time-bound.
- 3.10 In addition to the above amendments, the layout of the Monitoring Appendix was amended to separate each policy into a separate table to allow for ease of reading and headings were changed to reflect the move towards SMART monitoring and to ensure consistency between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council monitoring indicators.
- 3.11 A final tracked changes and 'clean' version of the Monitoring Appendix can be found in Appendix A and B respectively.

3.12 A summary of the changes to the monitoring of policies can be found in Appendix C.

Next Steps

3.13 Following consideration of this report by Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee and agreement by the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport, the report will be submitted to the Planning Inspectors alongside approved modifications to South Cambridgeshire District Council's monitoring Policy S/12: Phasing, Delivery and Monitoring on 31 July 2017. Subject to the Inspectors' approval and the examination timetable, it is likely that they will ask the Councils to undertake a consultation on all the proposed Post Submission Main Modifications in autumn/winter 2017.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The costs of preparing the Local Plan has already been budgeted for and included in the budget.

(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) Equality and Poverty Implications

There are no direct equal opportunity implications arising from this report. The Local Plan has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment, which demonstrates how potential equalities issues have been, and will be addressed.

(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. While national policy changes have had some impact on the level of ambition that can be included in the plan in relation to the reduction of carbon emissions from new housing developments, wider policies in the plan related to climate change and sustainable development mean that the plan should still overall have a positive climate change impact.

(e) **Procurement**

There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

The consultation and communication 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 of Best Practice on Consultation and Community Engagement.

(g) **Community Safety**

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

5. Background papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- National Planning Policy Framework:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- National Planning Practice Guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>
- 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

- Post-submission correspondence with the Inspector:
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/post-submission-correspondence-with-the-inspector>

6. Appendices

- Appendix A: Amended Appendix M: Monitoring & Implementation (clean)
- Appendix B: Amended Appendix M: Monitoring & Implementation (track changes)
- Appendix C: Audit Trail

7. Inspection of papers

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

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