

## Item

# Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Issues & Options consultation

**To:**

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Open Spaces  
Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee [7/11/2019]

**Report by:**

Stephen Kelly, Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development  
Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire  
Tel: 01223 - 457009 Email: [stephen.kelly@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.kelly@cambridge.gov.uk)

**Wards affected:**

All

## Key Decision

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks agreement on the proposed content of, and the participation and communication strategy for, the first formal round of consultation for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, known as the Issues & Options consultation. This forms part of the early stages in preparing the next Local Plan for the area, being prepared jointly by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 1.2 To provide a full context for this discussion, the report sets out:
- an overview of the Local Plan process
  - the member governance process ahead of the Issues & Options consultation
  - the findings of a Lessons Learned and Good Practice review of the adopted local plans
  - conclusions of initial stakeholder engagement workshops for the Local Plan
  - the draft Issues & Options format and text for consultation
  - supporting evidence documents
  - the proposed participation and communication strategy for the Issues & Options consultation

- 1.3 The Joint Local Planning Advisory Group (JLPAG) considered these papers on 1st October, and identified recommendations, addressed at sections 5, 9 and 11. South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny & Overview Committee in turn, considered these papers in the light of the JLPAG recommendations on 17th October. This report has addressed both of these.

## **2. Recommendations**

### **2.1 The Executive Councillor is recommended to:**

1. Note the Lessons Learned and Good Practice review (Appendix A)
2. Note the Statement of Consultation – Report on Local Plan Workshops (Appendix B – chapters 2-5);
3. Note the feedback from the Joint Local Plan Advisory Group (Appendix I); and
4. Approve the Local Plan Issues & Options report text (at Appendix E) and supporting documents (at Appendices F, G and H) and consultation process (at Section VIII and Appendix B, chapter 6).
5. In consultation with the Chair and Spokes for the Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee, in liaison with the South Cambridgeshire Lead Cabinet Member for Planning and in consultation with members of the Joint Local Planning Advisory Group, to consider and agree, as is consistent with this Council's Corporate Objectives, any material changes to the Local Plan Issues & Options report text (at Appendix E) and supporting documents (at Appendices A, B (chapter 6), F, G and H) prior to the commencement of the consultation period, including any proposed by South Cambridgeshire District Council.
6. Delegate authority to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in liaison with the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Open Spaces and South Cambridgeshire District Council Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, and the Chair and Spokes for the Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee, and in consultation with members of the Joint Local Planning Advisory Group, to make editorial changes to the Local Plan Issues & Options report text (at Appendix E) and supporting documents (at Appendices A, B (chapter 6), F, G and H) prior to the commencement of the consultation period (to comprise minor amendments and factual updates and clarifications).
7. Delegate authority to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in liaison with the Executive Councillor for Planning

Policy and Open Spaces and South Cambridgeshire District Council Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, and the Chair and Spokes for the Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee to update the Local Development Scheme to reflect the amended consultation period.

#### **4. Background: overview of Greater Cambridge Local Plan**

- 4.1 Through the City Deal with Government in June 2014, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council committed to develop a joint Local Plan for the Greater Cambridge area.
- 4.2 Both councils adopted their current Local Plans in 2018. Both plans include a shared policy commitment to produce a joint Local Plan via an early review of those plans, in particular to update the assessment of housing needs, review the progress of delivering planned developments (in particular the new settlements at Waterbeach and Bourn Airfield), and consider the needs of caravan dwellers and government changes to the approach to planning for Gypsies and Travellers.

##### Local Plan outline process

- 4.3 The adopted Local Plans set out that production of the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan will commence before the end of 2019, with submission to the Secretary of State for examination anticipated by the end of Summer 2022. The adopted Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme 2018 states that the first formal consultation on issues and options for the joint plan will take place in Autumn 2019, with submission of the plan in summer 2022 and an anticipated date of adoption being around summer 2023 (note: updating of the Local Development Scheme is addressed in section 11 of this report).
- 4.4 The Issues & Options consultation is the first stage towards preparing the new Local Plan, but is not the actual plan. In legal terms, it forms parts of the Regulation 18 stage of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. It is intended to explore important issues that will influence how the plan is developed, giving people the opportunity to inform and shape the direction of the plan before it is drafted.
- 4.5 Future consultation stages of the Local Plan, including the draft local plan consultation will include a preferred strategy, site allocations, and development management policies. The draft plan will be supported by a full suite of evidence, which is currently being commissioned and prepared.

##### Preparation for Issues & Options consultation

- 4.6 Officers have progressed a number of workstreams to start the Local Plan process, and in particular to inform the Issues & Options consultation. These are set out below and are explored in the following sections:
- Section 5: Governance
  - Section 7: Lessons learned and good practice review

- Section 8: Initial stakeholder engagement via workshops held in summer and autumn 2019
- Section 9: Drafting the Issues & Options
- Section 10: Supporting evidence
- Section 11: Participation and Communications Strategy

## **5. Governance**

- 5.1 Preparing a new joint Local Plan requires a clear governance structure.
- 5.2 A Joint Local Planning Advisory Group (JLPAG) has been established by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council as the local planning authorities to facilitate a shared policy position. This Member Group reports its recommendations to the respective Local Planning Authorities, for decision-making to be completed through each Council's existing democratic processes. This will allow the timely development of the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan.
- 5.3 An officer board has been established, comprising representatives of both councils, Greater Cambridge Partnership, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Combined Authority. The role of this group is to steer the development of the plan from an officer perspective and ensure alignment between the relevant organisations. The Board meets on a monthly basis.

### **Recommendations of JLPAG on Governance**

- 5.4 The JLPAG met for the first time on 1 October 2019, to discuss this report and appendices. Their main recommendation (see Appendix I) was that further work was required on the text of the Issues and Options document and on the questions included within it. In order to allow time to accommodate the revisions to the document proposed by JLPAG before the decision making meetings of each Council, JLPAG recommended that this Cambridge Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee be delayed, so that it took place around the same time as South Cambridgeshire Cabinet in November.
- 5.5 In addition to this, if further changes were required to the documents after these respective meetings, JLPAG recommended delegation to lead members to agree such changes and that this should require consultation with members of JLPAG.

### **Officer response to JLPAG recommendations**

- 5.6 The Chair of the Cambridge Planning Transport Scrutiny Committee agreed to the proposal of JLPAG to defer the date of the meeting, and this is the reason for this meeting taking place today rather than as previously planned in October.

5.7 The revised governance process to enable the Issues and Options consultation documents to be agreed for public consultation is set out below, reflecting the above points raised by JLPAG.

- a. 17<sup>th</sup> October - South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny & Overview Committee:  
This committee makes recommendations to South Cambridgeshire Cabinet for their final decision (a report on their recommendations is included at Appendix J for information)
- b. 6<sup>th</sup> November - South Cambridgeshire Cabinet:  
This committee will provide the final agreement from a South Cambridgeshire perspective on the Issues & Options consultation content and process. The report mirrors this report.
- c. 7<sup>th</sup> November – Cambridge Planning & Transport  
This report.
- d. Following 7<sup>th</sup> November:  
Any further changes will be under delegation approved at Cambridge Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee.
- e. Issues & Options consultation starts (see section 10 below):  
Subject to agreement via processes set out above. If agreement were not reached by both Councils, consideration would need to be given to next steps and further consideration through the democratic process.

## **6. Local Plan early engagement**

- 6.1 The plan making process does not start with the issues and options consultation. An independent Lessons Learned and Good Practice review has been carried out, engaging with key stakeholders via structured discussions looking back at the previous Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans in terms of processes and outcomes. In addition, in July and September 2019, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service held eight Local Plan workshops across both districts of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge.
- 6.2 Both of these processes have informed the development of the draft issues and options report, and the communications plan. This report now explains each of these in more detail.

## **7. Lessons Learned and Good Practice review (Appendix A)**

- 7.1 To support a reflective approach to the new Local Plan, an independent local planning expert was commissioned to undertake a Lessons Learned and Good Practice review. This involved engaging with key stakeholders via structured discussions to look back at the previous Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans in terms of processes and outcomes. It also included considering examples of good practice nationally, to understand in which areas, and how, improvements might be made to the approach to plan-making, consistent with current national planning policy.
- 7.2 The Lessons Learned and Good Practice review forms Appendix A to this report. The report author, John Williamson, will make a short presentation to the Planning & Transport Committee on the process of the review and his findings.
- 7.3 The headline findings of the Lessons Learned report, representing areas of broad consensus among those who contributed, are listed below:
- the extent and type of stakeholder engagement before public consultation is important, particularly as this can have a positive bearing on defining the key issues and options for the plan;
  - the length of the plan and the extent of supporting evidence should be kept proportionate, including through a rigorous review of plan policies;
  - the plan's policy content should include a central focus on climate change and biodiversity, while travellers' accommodation needs remains a challenging issue to address;
  - ensuring effective information management and co-ordination of evidence production and presentation, particularly given increased organisational complexity; and
  - the examination, where it is important to attempt to reduce the number of objections through a clearer approach to on-going engagement with

stakeholders, and a proactive and assertive approach should be taken through early engagement with the Planning Inspectorate.

- 7.4 While some of the report's findings relate to later stages in the plan process, the early stakeholder workshops and Issues & Options report discussed below respond to the first and third bullets identified above, and a review of existing plan policies has been started. Further reflection on the Lessons Learned report findings will be required as the plan progresses.

## **8. Statement of Consultation: Report on Local Plan Workshops, Summer / Autumn 2019**

- 8.1 In July and September 2019, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service organised eight Local Plan workshops across both districts of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge, for the following representatives and groups:
- Ward members of both Councils
  - statutory consultees, service providers and other interest groups
  - landowners, developers and agents
  - Resident's Associations and Parish Councils
  - Internal council officers
  - Businesses
- 8.2 The purpose of these events was to ask stakeholders to identify the key issues facing Greater Cambridge over the next twenty years or so, informing the Issues & Options consultation in particular. These workshops also offered an opportunity to gather feedback on the previous Local Plan process, and explain about the forthcoming Local Plan process.
- 8.3 The Report of the Workshops is at Appendix B Statement of Consultation. At the workshops attendees were given a presentation indicating that the plan would explore the need for jobs, homes and infrastructure, but that there would be cross cutting themes that would influence how these would be shaped and the issues it needed to address. Stakeholders provided a very wide range of feedback on issues that were important to them, and ideas on measures the new local plan could take. The outputs have helped to shape the draft Issues and Options, which includes broad 'big themes' to help structure the issues and questions to seek feedback on.
- 8.4 Reflections shared on the previous Local Plan process will inform the preparation of the plan as it progresses, both in terms of plan content and process. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan Lessons Learned & Good Practice document cross-refers to the notes of the workshops to inform and reinforce the conclusions made within the report.
- 8.5 The Statement of Consultation also includes coverage of a further event that was held in September organised by Cambridge Past Present and Future in conjunction with Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, called Keeping

Cambridge Special. This event followed a different structure to the workshops and asked different questions. A summary of the questions and answers is provided in the Statement of Consultation at Appendix B.

- 8.6 Feedback on the workshops and other events held will inform how workshops and other engagement later on in the plan process are planned and run.

## **9. Issues & Options consultation format and draft text**

- 9.1 The purpose of the Issues & Options consultation is to begin a wider conversation about the kind of place we want the Greater Cambridge area to be in the future in a way that is accessible to everyone, including engaging with those that wouldn't normally be aware of and engage with the Local Plan. At the same time, the consultation needs to provide enough context and detail to enable responses to inform future, more technical stages, of the Local Plan.
- 9.2 To achieve the intended accessibility, the consultation content must be visually appealing and easy to navigate in both online and print forms. A dedicated website is being set up, and is intended to be the primary way people will access the consultation. This is being designed to be visually engaging, and to enable users to navigate the content easily in a way that suits them – moving around between issues of particular interest. It will also introduce the ability to 'quick comment' on the questions directly, as an alternative to submitting a more time-consuming and detailed response via our standard online response system, JDi. A 'wire-frame' of the website can be seen at Appendix C. The print document is also intended to be visually led and easy to navigate; a mock-up of what this may look like is provided at Appendix D. These are intended be illustrative at this stage and may be subject to further change.
- 9.3 Before the full consultation website and print materials can be completed, officers are seeking approval of the draft proposed text for the Issues and Options Report (included at Appendix E to this report). The reason for not providing a fully designed draft at this point is to enable changes to be made. Following approval of the report's text and diagrams by the respective councils, the online content and the final document production process will be completed.
- 9.4 The draft text has been written with the intention of being accessible to all. It is intended to be relatively concise, while covering the main issues we need to seek views on at this stage, including clear simple language and using a repeated content structure as set out below.
- 9.5 This draft text puts forward some overarching themes for comment and sets out the conceptual spatial choices available for the development strategy. The overarching themes, set out below, have drawn on feedback from the workshops, and also address the key objectives of the Councils, including climate change, and biodiversity:
- Climate change
  - Biodiversity and green spaces
  - Wellbeing and Social Inclusion



- Great Places
- Jobs
- Homes
- Infrastructure

9.3 Each theme is set out as follows:

- Infographic of key facts, headline text and an overarching question
- *What we are required to do in the plan* - for example by National Planning Policy.
- *What we are doing already* - as the councils' existing plans and other strategies mean the Councils are already doing a lot under each of these themes.
- *Key Issues* - issues are then explored that need to be considered through the new local plan
- *Questions* - seeking in some areas to understand how much of a priority should be given to specific issues, and seeking feedback on ideas for what the new Local Plan should do to respond to them.

9.4 The text does not set out any firm proposals for land use or policy as this will be done at the draft plan stage, when we will prepare a draft Local Plan informed by the comments we receive to this consultation evidence we are gathering, and testing of options for the plan. It does however highlight the potential scale of growth in homes and jobs to plan for based on existing information, from the nationally set standard method and from the conclusions of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review.

## **Recommendations of JLPAG and South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny & Overview on Issues and Options format and text**

9.5 JLPAG (as set out at Appendix I) considered that further work was required on the text of the Issues and Options document and on the questions included within it, in particular to make the document and web pages more accessible to a range of audiences and to encourage greater participation. These points are expanded upon below:

Further work was required on the text of the document

- Structure of the document – this needed reviewing, taking into consideration its web and print forms, in order to attract and maintain the attention of readers
- Big themes – potential conflicts between these themes needed spelling out more clearly
- Growth – there should be explicit explanation of why no growth is not an option, given existing council commitments and government policy requirements.
- Spatial choices – these should be explained more fully
- Language – this should be reviewed to ensure it is more engaging and less technical

- 9.6 Further work was required on the questions included within the document
- Questions - should be framed consistently, allowing open responses on each issue
  - Quantitative prioritising questions - for all themes these should be brought together as prioritisation of themes (top priority/high priority/low priority) is a relative issue
  - Question 19 (of the draft considered by LPAG) regarding spatial choices should be reviewed to allow those responding to provide answers involving a blend of options or percentage preference
- 9.7 Further to the comments of JLPAG, South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny & Overview members made comments on the following issues in relation to the wording and format of document:
- Concern was raised regarding water resilience and confidence on this issue needed to be provided to communities.
  - Consideration should be given in the Local Plan to future changes in society, about which there is uncertainty; such as the heating and cooling of houses, as well as ensuring there was enough electricity to meet future power demands.
  - The need to ensure that the document and website would be accessible in terms of wording, colouring, maps and diagrams
  - The need to use plain English, define acronyms and enhance the glossary
- 9.8 Within discussion at the South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny & Overview Committee, the Chairman of the South Cambridgeshire Climate and Environment Advisory Committee (CEAC) raised the following points as Chairman of the CEAC:
- The CEAC was positive about the issues and options document, including its focus on climate change and biodiversity issues
  - A request for a workshop was made, to bring together bodies, including the Environment Agency, to look at the water cycle strategy. The idea of water neutrality should be discussed at this workshop and the environmental consequences of spatial choices made in the plan should also be looked at.
  - Water efficiency should be addressed in the housing quality section, as well as in the climate change section.
  - Thought needed to be given to what we were trying to get out of the questions being asked in the document and whether they generated useful information.

### **Officer response to recommendations of JLPAG and South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny & Overview Committee**

- 9.9 The version of the Issues & Options draft text included at Appendix E seeks to address the points raised by JLPAG and South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny & Overview Committee. Officers have considered and addressed the points on the Issues and Options consultation documents identified above. The main changes

to the document from that discussed by JLPAG and South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny & Overview Committee include:

- Reviewing language to remove jargon and simplify wording
  - Adding some words to the glossary. Links to the glossary will be included in the web version, although full functionality of hovering over words to get a definition will not be available at this point.
  - Bringing together quantitative prioritisation questions to allow relative prioritisation of all themes
  - Spatial choices question was amended to allow those responding to provide their preference by allocating a number of points across the locations which will help inform the strength of views for each.
- Technical issues around this approach are being explored.

9.10 In addition to responding to the changes suggested by members, a number of further changes have been made to the version considered by the JLPAG addressing two main issues:

- The locational option of development of the edge of Cambridge includes both the option of developing land in the green belt, and land outside the green belt. The land outside the green belt is Cambridge Airport, removed from the green belt and safeguarded for development should it become available. In planning policy terms there is a significant difference between land within and outside the Green Belt and in asking for views on the principle of building in different locations, it is important to make this distinction clear and provide the opportunity to provide comments on them separately. Therefore the revised document includes two options for the edge of Cambridge, land outside the green belt, and land within the green belt.
- Amendments to the text regarding the housing need, and the relationship between the standard method of calculating housing need, and the consideration of making additional provision for homes that would provide flexibility to support the potential levels of continued economic growth.

9.11 The Issues & Options document text at Appendix E has been updated having regard to the comments from JLPAG, and the changes identified above.

## **10. Supporting evidence**

10.1 Each stage of the plan making process will be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is an assessment process designed to consider and report upon the significant sustainability issues and effects of emerging plans and policies. SA informs the plan-making through an iterative process by helping to refine the plan's contents, ensuring we understand the sustainability impacts of potential options and then helping to refine the emerging draft plan itself.

### Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Appendix F)

10.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is Appendix F to this report. Its purpose is to provide the context for and determine the scope of the SA of the Local Plan and to set out an assessment framework of SA objectives, for

undertaking the later stages of the SA. This will be published for consultation alongside the issues and options report, to allow stakeholders to comment on the scope of the SA at this early stage.

Sustainability Appraisal of Issues & Options (Appendix G)

- 10.3 Using the SA objectives identified in the Scoping Report, the SA of the draft Issues & Options text provides a high-level commentary on the sustainability implications of issues raised within each big themes. The main focus of the Appraisal for this stage of the plan process is a broad assessment of the sustainability implications of each spatial option. Please note that the Sustainability Appraisal of Issues & Options will need to be reviewed ahead of consultation to account for changes made to the draft Issues & Options text arising through member processes.

Habitat Regulations Assessment Scoping Report (Appendix H)

- 10.4 Habitat Regulations Assessment will determine whether the Local Plan site allocations and policies may affect the protected features of wildlife habitat sites that have international designations. Given that no development sites or policies are identified in the Issues & Options consultation, it is not possible to assess the impacts on designated habitats at this stage in the plan process. Instead the Habitat Regulations Assessment Scoping Report identifies the habitats that may be affected by the plan.

# 11 Statement of Consultation: Local Plan Participation and Communication Strategy

## Background

- 11.1 Previous experience of Local Plan consultations in Greater Cambridge has shown that a good level of responses were received, but engagement was not fully representative of our communities. Statutory consultees, active community organisers/campaigners, major landowners and planning agents, and certain other groups do engage actively in shaping the Plan. However, the wider community, including residents from diverse backgrounds and geographical locations, small businesses, and even internal officers within local authorities who do not work within planning or related services, have little understanding that a Local Plan is being developed, let alone how it will shape their lives in the future and therefore why their involvement is important.
- 11.2 In the Greater Cambridge area, there is a clear political priority to put community engagement at the heart of the Local Plan development process. A Participation and Communication Strategy has therefore been developed to support the Local Plan process (included at Appendix 7 of the Statement of Consultation in Appendix B of this report).

## Participation and Communication Strategy

- 11.3 The aims of the strategy are as follows:

### Spreading the word

- Encouraging participation and engagement – explaining why the Local Plan is important and how it affects people's lives on the ground.
- Demystifying the process of creating a Local Plan and managing expectations of what a Plan can and can't do.
- Communicating the 'big ideas' and a positive vision of the future – contributing to creating a sense of identity and inclusion.
- Ensure there is accurate and timely information accessible to all.
- Explain why difficult decisions have been made.
- 'No surprises' – no excuse for stakeholders to be surprised by the content of the draft Local Plan when published.

### Co-creating the Plan

- Thinking outside the box – gathering ideas we might not think of otherwise – from internal and external sources.
- Testing ideas – 'kicking the tyres' – is it fit for purpose, what kind of challenges are we likely to face in the formal consultation and inspection stages?
- Testing the detail – benefitting from wider knowledge in the community and specialist stakeholders on specific theme/policy and sites, ensuring policy detail is well drafted and effective.
- Ensuring key stakeholders buy into the policy wording and therefore support it effectively in implementation

## Building the evidence base

- Providing evidence for why the draft Local Plan emerges in the form it eventually takes.
- Justifying options and the selection of options.
- Evidencing wide community and stakeholder participation
- Providing the material for the Statement of Consultation.

## Proposed Issues & Options consultation and participatory activities

11.4 The Issues & Options consultation is the time to spark the interest in our communities as well as setting out the challenges and managing expectations for the next stages.

11.5 The focus will be on:

- Reaching out widely and hearing ideas from all quarters, specifically the hard to reach groups through extensive roadshow events and use of video, social media and traditional media during the consultation period
- Ensuring that the format and content of the material presented is highly accessible and visual
- Capturing feedback in ways that create compelling and interesting content – allowing people to hear each other's voices where possible
- More 'questions' than 'answers' to avoid any perception that the plan has already been drafted – needs to be genuinely open ended
- Explaining the existing 'fixed issues' – both national policy that we are obliged to implement, and also major sites within the Local Plan area that will be built out into the new Local Plan period.

11.6 Drawing on the Participation and Communication Strategy principles, the activities proposed to be included within the Issues & Options consultation are set out in the Statement of Consultation (included at Chapter 7 of the Statement of Consultation in Appendix B of this report).

## **Recommendations of JLPAG and Scrutiny & Overview on communications strategy**

11.7 The main comment raised by JLPAG in relation to consultation activities was to recommend that consultation starts in January and runs for 6 weeks, rather than have a longer consultation starting at the end of November and running across the festive period. Points raised included that:

- The Christmas period should not be part of the consultation period as it would disrupt consultation communications.
- The consultation period should include a reasonable amount of time within the university term, as many members of the Cambridge community work to this calendar.

11.8 South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny & Overview Committee made the following comments regarding consultation activities:

- favoured the consultation starting in January 2020 to avoid the Christmas period.
- suggested that pre-consultation engagement should be undertaken.
- suggested that the consultation document and questions be made available as far in advance as possible of the consultation start date. This would enable parish councils, which may only meet once every two months, to start considering their consultation responses.

## **Officer response to recommendations of JLPAG and Scrutiny & Overview**

- 11.9 The overall impact on the plan-making timetable would be limited, as a consultation starting in January would still end in February, 6 weeks later. Starting consultation in January would however mean a slight delay in the programme against the adopted Local Development Scheme, which states that the issues and options consultation would take place in Autumn 2019. Whilst the live timetable on the Councils' websites can be updated it would be prudent to also update the Local Development Scheme if this change is made. Delegation to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development to carry out this update is sought in recommendation 7 of this report.
- 11.10 The Councils made a commitment to commence the local plan review before the end of 2019, and this is established in policy in the adopted Local Plans. The commitment was also made in the City Deal with Government. As set out in the Statement of Consultation (Appendix B), the review has very much commenced, with a significant amount of engagement already taking place and many elements of the evidence base preparation also underway.
- 11.11 Further to addressing the points raised about consultation timings, the Communications team are finalising the detailed consultation plan which will include some warm-up engagement in December. The proposed consultation period is from 13 January to 24 February 2020.

## **12 Implications**

### **a) Financial Implications**

Currently anticipated to be within current budgets. This will be kept under review alongside other work priorities.

### **b) Staffing Implications**

Currently anticipated to be delivered within our existing budgets. This will be kept under review alongside other work priorities.

**c) Equality and Poverty Implications**

The plan provides an opportunity to address aspects of equality and poverty that can be influenced by the physical environment. The Local Plan will require an Equalities Assessment to be undertaken as part of its preparation. The Sustainability Appraisal process that will accompany each stage of the plan incorporates consideration of equalities issues.

**d) Environmental Implications**

The plan provides an opportunity to address the aspects of the environment that can be influenced by the planning system. These aspects will be considered by a range of evidence including via a Sustainability Appraisal.

**e) Procurement Implications**

A large number of evidence base studies have been or are being procured to support the development of the Local Plan.

**f) Community Safety Implications**

The plan provides an opportunity to address aspects of community safety that can be influenced by the physical environment.

## **13 Consultation and communication considerations**

Consultation arrangements are set out in section 11 of this report.



## 14 Background papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

South Cambridgeshire Cabinet meeting papers, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=293&MId=7536&Ver=4>

South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny & Overview meeting papers, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=417&MId=7655&Ver=4>

Joint Local Planning Advisory Group meeting papers, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=492&Year=0>

South Cambridgeshire Leader's Decision approving the final Joint Local Planning Advisory Group terms of reference

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=11133>

Papers of Cambridge City Council Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=475&MId=3740&Ver=4>

Draft minutes of the South Cambridgeshire District Council Cabinet meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=293&MId=7532&Ver=4>

Papers relating to Cabinet meeting 3 October 2018, where it was agreed to set up a joint member group in principle

<http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=293&MId=7345&Ver=4>

Papers relating to Cambridge Planning & Transport Scrutiny meeting 3 October 2018, where it was agreed to set up a joint member group in principle

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=475&MId=3558&Ver=4>

Adopted Cambridge Local Plan 2018

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/local-plan-2018>

Adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/the-adopted-development-plan/south-cambridgeshire-local-plan-2018/>

Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme 2018

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12805/greater-cambridge-lds-for-website-oct-2018.pdf>

## **15 Appendices**

The Councils have prepared these documents to be compliant with the website accessibility requirements where possible; however some sections of individual documents may not be fully website accessibility compliant. If you would have problems accessing any sections of the appended documents, please contact the Planning Policy, Strategy and Economy Team by email: [ldf@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@scambs.gov.uk) or phone: 01954 713183.

### **Appendix A: The Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Lessons Learned and Good Practice**

### **Appendix B: Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Statement of Consultation**

### **Appendix C: Issues & Options website 'wire-frame'**

### **Appendix D: Issues & Options print document example layout**

### **Appendix E: Issues & Options consultation draft text**

### **Appendix F: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

### **Appendix G: Sustainability Appraisal of Issues & Options document**

### **Appendix H: Habitats Regulations Scoping Report**

### **Appendix I: Local Planning Advisory Group recommendations to Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire democratic processes**

### **Appendix J: Scrutiny & Overview recommendations to South Cambridgeshire Cabinet**

## **16 Report Author**

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

Stuart Morris

Principal Policy Planner

[stuart.morris@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.morris@scambs.gov.uk)

01223 457 329 / 01954 713 639