

**CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL**  
Record of Executive Decision

<b>GREATER CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN ISSUES &amp; OPTIONS CONSULTATION – MINOR AMENDMENTS TO SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH STATUTORY CONSULTEES</b>
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**Decision of:** Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Open Spaces

**Reference:** 19/URGENCY/P&T/14

**Date of decision:** 03/01/20                      **Recorded on:** 03/01/20

**Decision Type:** Non Key

**Matter for Decision:** Minor changes to documents supporting the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Issues and Options consultation following consultation with Statutory Consultees - the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Sustainability Appraisal Issues and Options Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report.

This decision relates to specific delegations to the Executive Member for Planning Policy & Open Spaces endorsed by Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee on 7 November 2019.

The Executive Member for Planning Policy & Open Spaces resolved, as endorsed by Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee, on 7 November: 'To 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).

The Executive Councillor also resolved:

'To approve 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.

A copy of the report considered by the Planning and Transport Committee on 7 November and all associated documents can be viewed at the link below:

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=475&MIId=3769&Ver=4>

## Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report

The supporting documents referred to above include the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) (Appendix F). The SA Scoping Report was sent to the Statutory Consultees Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency for their comments. Comments were received from all three bodies and the Scoping Report has been updated in line with these comments by consultants Land Use Consultants who are carrying out the SA for the Councils.

Many of the changes are additional information and details about relevant studies. Comments from the Environment Agency lead to a small change to SA Objective 10 (changed as follows: To achieve sustainable water resource management and ~~promote~~ enhance the quality of Greater Cambridge's waters). Also an additional appraisal question was added about ensuring there is sufficient water to serve new growth without negatively impacting on the environment and the appraisal question relating to waste water treatment was strengthened to refer to environmental capacity and climate change.

A new table has been added to the SA Scoping Report (Appendix 2 of that document) which sets out a summary of the comments from statutory consultees and how they have been addressed in the Scoping Report. The revised Scoping Report is appended to this decision as Appendix 1. Appendix 2 of that document should be referred to and it may be necessary to look back at the previous version of the report to see the changes by going to this link

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/documents/s48097/Appendix%20F%20part%20%20-%20SA%20Scoping%20Full%20Report-red.pdf>

The purpose of this decision is to approve these amendments.

## SA of the Issues and Options Report

The supporting documents referred to above also include the Sustainability Appraisal of the Issues and Options Report and Non-Technical Summary (Appendix G).

As a result of the amendments to the Scoping Report, particularly in relation to SA Objective 10 and other comments made by the Environment Agency, some minor changes were made to the SA of the Issues and Options Report. These mainly relate to the issue of water resources and the fact that the Councils are going to commission an Integrated Water Management Study as evidence base for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which will also inform the future SA.

These amendments are shown in a tracked changes version of the document which is appended to this decision as Appendix 2. In particular see page 14, paragraphs 3.9, 3.27 3.79 and 3.91.

The purpose of this decision is to approve these amendments.

### Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report

The supporting documents referred to above also include the HRA Scoping Report (Appendix H).

Natural England provided comments on the HRA Scoping Report which have been used by Land Use Consultants to update this document and will be taken into account in the subsequent formal HRA stages for the Local Plan. This information has resulted in some changes to the issues that may be of relevance to some of the designated sites.

Natural England's comments are set out in Appendix 1 of the HRA Scoping Report in Appendix 1. The amendments to the HRA Scoping Report itself are shown in a tracked changes version of the document which is appended to this decision as Appendix 3.

The purpose of this decision is to approve these amendments.

Note:

To ensure an aligned agreement on these documents between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, the Lead Cabinet Member for Planning is also taking an out of cycle decision on them at the same time.

**Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options):**

Consultation with the Statutory Consultees is part of the SA and HRA process and the additional information they have provided is useful to feed into these baseline documents and will inform the subsequent stages of plan making and SA / HRA appraisal.

**The Executive Councillor's decision(s):**

To confirm the proposed content of the supporting documents for the Issues and Options consultation including the SA Scoping Report and NTS, SA of the Issues and Options Report and NTS, and Scoping Report of the HRA as set out in the documents appended to this decision.

**Reasons for the decision:**

The documents have been amended following comments received from the Statutory Consultees, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency.

**Scrutiny consideration:**

The Chair and Spokesperson of Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee were consulted prior to the action being authorised.

**Report:**

The proposed changes are attached as set out above.

**Conflicts of interest:**

None known

**Comments:**