

## Item 4: Greater Cambridge Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation

A Local Plan is a legal document that councils are required to prepare, which sets out the future land use and planning policies for the area over a set time frame. It identifies the need for new homes and jobs, and the services and infrastructure to support them, and guides where this growth should happen.

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are working together to create a joint Local Plan for the two areas – which we are referring to as Greater Cambridge. This will ensure that there is a consistent approach to planning, and the same planning policies, where appropriate, across both areas. The new Greater Cambridge Local Plan will shape how our area changes over the period to 2040, and possibly beyond.

Both Councils adopted their current respective Local Plans in 2018. Both Plans include a commitment to an early review, in particular to update the assessment of housing needs, to review the progress of delivering planned developments including new settlements, and to consider the needs of caravan dwellers and government changes to the approach to planning for Gypsies and Travellers.

Consultation and community engagement will be undertaken on the Issues and Options document on the Local Plan from 13 January to 24 February 2020. The Issues and Options document is the first stage towards preparing the next Local Plan, but it is not the Plan itself. The new Local Plan will be prepared in stages over about four years, and there will be further public consultation as options are considered and policies are developed.

‘The first consultation’ explores the ‘big themes’ that will influence how **homes, jobs** and **infrastructure** are planned. The big themes are:

- **Climate change** – how the plan should contribute to achieving net zero carbon, and the mitigation and adaptation measures that should be required through developments.
- **Biodiversity and green spaces** – how the plan can contribute to our ‘doubling nature’ vision, the improvement of existing green spaces and the creation of more.
- **Wellbeing and social inclusion** – how the plan can help spread the benefits of growth, helping to create healthy and inclusive communities.
- **Great places** – how the plan can protect what is already great about the area, and design new developments to create special places and spaces.

The consultation also sets out some options for where growth of homes and jobs might go, and seeks views on where people think the plan should focus and how the big themes should play into this. The following options are identified:

1. **Densification of existing urban areas** – Providing more homes and jobs on underused land within Cambridge and also potentially in existing new settlements. This could be by building taller buildings or redeveloping underused sites at higher densities.
2. **Edge of Cambridge: outside Green Belt** – Creating new homes and jobs in extensions on the edge of Cambridge, using land not in the green belt. The only large site on the edge of Cambridge not in the Green Belt is Cambridge Airport.
3. **Edge of Cambridge: within Green Belt** - Creating new homes and jobs in extensions on the edge of Cambridge, involving release of land from the Green Belt.
4. **Dispersal: new settlements** - Creating one or more whole new towns or villages, providing homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure in a new location, and supported by strategic transport infrastructure connecting to Cambridge.
5. **Dispersal: villages** - Spreading new homes and jobs out to the villages, through allocating sites on the edges of villages or increasing the number of homes that can be developed on sites within the villages.
6. **Public transport corridors** - Creating new homes and jobs along key public transport corridors extending out from Cambridge, where they can access high quality public transport. This could be by expanding or intensifying existing settlements, or with new settlements.

The two big themes relevant to equality for the development of the Local Plan and related to the above options are:

- **Wellbeing and social inclusion** – how the plan can help spread the benefits of growth, helping to create healthy and inclusive communities.
- **Great places** – how the plan can protect what is already great about the area, and design new developments to create special places and spaces.

The consultation includes a total of 50 questions. At the Equalities Panel, for this item feedback shall be sought from Panel members on the following questions taken from the Issues and Options paper that especially relate to equalities:

- 1) How do you think we should involve our communities and stakeholders in developing the Plan?
- 16) How should the Local Plan help us achieve ‘good growth’ that promotes wellbeing and social inclusion?

- 17) How do you think our plan could help enable communities to shape new development proposals?
- 18) How do you think we can make sure that we achieve safe and inclusive communities when planning new development?
- 34) How should we meet the need for additional Gypsy, Traveller and caravan sites?
- 36) How should the Local Plan ensure the right infrastructure is provided in line with development?

To see the full Local Plan Issues and Options document and the Equality Impact Assessment, go to: [www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan](http://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan)