

Item

Adopted Local Plans – 5 year review

Key Decision

To:

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure

Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee 27 June 2023

Report by:

Stephen Kelly, Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

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Wards affected:

All

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Local plans must be reviewed at least every five years from the date of a plan's adoption. In autumn 2023 it will be five years since the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans were adopted and, therefore, a review of both has been undertaken, as set out in this report and its appendices. However, both plans will be replaced by the joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP), preparation of which began in 2019 and, consequently, the main purpose of undertaking a review of an adopted plan has already been met.
- 1.2 The key purpose of this current review, therefore, is to assess whether there are any relevant changes in national policy that might have a bearing on the weight accorded to adopted policies in determining development proposals, prior to the adoption of the emerging GCLP. The outcome of the review is that the majority of policies in both adopted plans remain consistent with national policy and, therefore, can be given full weight until replaced by policies in the GCLP. The small number of exceptions relate to those policy areas identified by the local

plan Inspectors as not fully addressing the requirements of national policy, or concern subsequent changes to national policy.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

- i. Agree the Local Plan Five Year Review Covering Report and appendix regarding the Cambridge Local Plan 2018
- ii. Agree that any subsequent material amendments be made by the Executive Member for Planning and Transport, in consultation with Chair and Spokes
- iii. Agree that any subsequent minor amendments and editing changes that do not materially affect the content be delegated to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport, in consultation with Chair and Spokes.

3. Background

3.1 It is a statutory requirement for all local plans to be reviewed at least every five years from the date of a plan's adoption¹. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) says in this regard that 'policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary'².

3.2 The current Cambridge Local Plan was adopted in October 2018, while the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan was adopted a month earlier in September 2018. As it will be five years in autumn 2023 since the plans were adopted, a review of both plans' policies has been undertaken to meet the requirement to do so within this time period.

¹ In accordance with Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended in 2018.

² NPPF, paragraph 33.

- 3.3 As we have already commenced a review the adopted local plans in the form of the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, the principal purpose of undertaking a review of the adopted plans – to assess whether they need updating – has already been met. However, while it has been decided that the adopted plan policies will be replaced, until the new joint plan is adopted their statutory status in determining development proposals remains unchanged.
- 3.4 A key purpose of this current review is to assess whether there are any relevant changes in national policy that need to be taken into account, which could impact on the weight attached to them.

4. The Policy Review

- 3.5 The policy review can be found in appendix A of this committee report. The report explains the background to the review, recognising the particular context of the preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to replace the two adopted plans. Against this background, the approach taken to the review is explained, while the review of policies itself is included in the form of a table for each plan, appended to the report.
- 3.6 The outcome of the review is that the majority of policies in both adopted plans remain consistent with national policy and, therefore, can be given full weight until replaced by policies in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. There are a small number of policies that are generally consistent with national policy, but do not fully reflect more recent changes to national planning policy or legislation since the adoption of the Local Plans, but they do not prevent those changes being taken into account when determining planning applications.
- 3.7 Both Council's Local Plans will be more than five years old from autumn 2023 and the Councils recognise the need to update their housing requirements through preparation of the new joint Local Plan. In these circumstances reflecting national planning guidance calculation of five year housing land supply should be made against the government standard method. Based on the latest housing trajectory a five year

supply has been identified and it is anticipated that there will be a rolling five-year housing land supply going forwards when calculated in this way.

5. Implications

a) Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications of this policy review. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan review has already commenced.

b) Staffing Implications

There are no specific financial implications of this policy review. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan review has already commenced. The Local Plan is currently anticipated to be delivered within our existing staffing establishment. This will be kept under review alongside other work priorities.

c) Equality and Poverty Implications

There are no specific implications of this policy review. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan review has already commenced, and is being informed by equalities impact assessment.

d) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental Implications

The Climate Change Rating Tool has not been applied. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan review has already commenced and is exploring policy approaches informed by a Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment Process.

e) Procurement Implications

There are no procurement implications as a result of this report.

f) Community Safety Implications

There are no specific community safety implications of this policy review. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan review has already commenced. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to address aspects of community safety that can be influenced by the physical environment.

6. Consultation and communication considerations

There are no specific consultation and communication implications of this policy review. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan review has already commenced and is subject to a significant programme of consultation.

7. Background papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report include:

[Cambridge Local Plan 2018](#)

[South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018](#)

[National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

8. Appendices

Appendix A Cambridge Local Plan 2018 and South Cambridgeshire
Local Plan 2018 Policy Review of the Adopted Local Plans
for Greater Cambridge

9. Inspection of papers

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

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