

Appendix to the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 September 2018

Written response to question from County Councillor Tim Wotherspoon

Question

Dame Kate Barker published the final report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review in the middle of September. It says things such as "Our findings show that the area continues to grow strongly, in all likelihood significantly more so than the government's figures suggest". Some surveys indicate that business is growing at 10% a year, and faster in South Cambridgeshire than Cambridge City. Now that we are embarking on the next round of plan making, can the Leader give residents, entrepreneurs and businesses - not just in our own district but across the country and throughout the world - confidence that the planning system is fast enough to match this level of growth?

Response

South Cambridgeshire has welcomed the CPIER report and the recognition that Greater Cambridge is a distinct economy generating growth nationally, as well as positively contributing across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The current strategy set out in the new South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (and Cambridge Local Plan) provides a flexible supply of land that more than meets identified housing and jobs needs to 2031. Now that the Plan has been adopted, the focus must be on swift delivery of the 50,000 plus homes allocated, to support the continued fast growth of the economy. We continue to work on the delivery of allocated sites, including via processes such as Waterbeach New Town SPD which will inform determination of applications at this site; we are now working on Bourn Airfield SPD, and on Cambridge Northern Fringe AAP, the latter which will provide for further jobs and homes over and above those contained within the Plans. We also recognise that delivery of these major sites is reliant on significant infrastructure; we continue to work with Greater Cambridge Partnership and other local partners to deliver such enabling projects as swiftly as possible.

Looking further ahead, South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge are committed to producing a joint Local Plan, and the evidence in the CPIER will be considered as part of that process along with other relevant evidence. As a single Local Plan, this process should be more streamlined and we will be providing constructive feedback relating to the recent examination experience to the Planning Inspectorate in order to ensure the experience is not repeated. The formal start of joint Local Plan process will begin in autumn 2019 with submission to a government inspector planned for 2021.