

Appendix A: West Suffolk Local Plan Preferred Options – proposed consultation response

This response to the West Suffolk Local Plan (Regulation 18) Preferred Options consultation is made by Greater Cambridge Shared Planning on behalf of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The Councils are already engaging with West Suffolk Council under the Duty to Cooperate in relation to Greater Cambridge Local Plan and North East Cambridge Area Action Plan and look forward to ongoing engagement as both Greater Cambridge and West Suffolk plans progress.

West Suffolk has a close relationship with Greater Cambridge, with a shared travel to work, housing market and economic area. Whilst West Suffolk may be a net importer of jobs, higher wages in Cambridge are a pull factor for West Suffolk residents commuting to jobs within Greater Cambridge. West Suffolk is within the top three districts providing workers for Greater Cambridge and where possible these trips should be encouraged by sustainable modes. In particular we would suggest that allocations proposed at Haverhill make the most of opportunities for sustainable travel provided by the Cambridge South East Transport scheme between Haverhill and Greater Cambridge proposed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, to reduce pressure on the A1307.

It is noted that the West Suffolk employment land review study identified strong demand from the logistics sector for strategic distribution sites, and recommended this issue is considered at a sub-regional level. We would welcome discussion on this cross-boundary matter as our respective plans progress.

In common with West Suffolk Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have both declared climate emergencies. The Councils acknowledge the challenges faced by West Suffolk in addressing the Climate Emergency. Given the cross-boundary (and indeed global) nature of both opportunities and impacts in relation to the climate and biodiversity emergencies, we encourage West Suffolk to adopt ambitious climate and biodiversity policy approaches in their new plan, noting the approach taken within the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

The Councils note the range of additional evidence being prepared to inform the draft West Suffolk Local Plan, including documents being prepared jointly with the GCSP. This reflects the number of strategic infrastructure requirements and shared cross-boundary issues between West Suffolk and Greater Cambridge. We would welcome further dialogue with West Suffolk as our respective plans progress, including but not limited to the topics identified above.