

Report to:	Joint Local Planning Advisory Group 24 October 2022
Lead Members	Lead Cabinet Member for Planning (South Cambridgeshire) – Tumi Hawkins Executive Councillor, Planning and Transport (Cambridge) – Cllr Katie Thornburrow
Lead Officer:	Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

Joint Local Planning Advisory Group Programme to Draft Local Plan - Second Session: Strategy and Sites

Executive Summary

1. Leading up to the next member decisions on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan further member engagement will now take place to explore issues raised in the First Proposals feedback and help to inform development of the draft plan. This report sets out the proposed approach to those meetings. The second session will be used to discuss feedback received on the strategy and sites part of the plan.

Key Decision

2. No

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the advisory group:
 - a. offers views regarding issues raised in representations to the First Proposals in relation to strategy and sites

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The Joint Local Planning Advisory Group provides an appropriate forum for consideration of issues raised in representations, and can help steer development of the local plan.

Details

Background

5. South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council are working together to produce a joint local plan for the Greater Cambridge area. Plan making so far has involved significant stakeholder engagement and two main stages of public consultation.
6. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals consultation was held between 1 November and 13 December 2021. In June and July 2022 members of both Councils received reports on feedback received and the full consultation results were published. A [report on the consultation](#) and all the results are available on the Councils' local plan website. In summary:
 - Approximately 4,100 comments were made on the First Proposals, by 625 different respondents (this includes comments received online or input having been received by other means e.g. email)
 - The quick survey received 5,551 answers or comments from 598 unique respondents
 - 41 new sites were received
 - 172 sites had new information submitted which in some cases included revisions to site boundaries.
7. Comments registered on the Councils' online consultation system can be viewed on our First Proposals website: [Greater Cambridge Local Plan - First Proposals](#). Responses to the quick questionnaire have been collated into a spreadsheet. This is available on our local plan webpage: [Greater Cambridge Local Plan](#) (greatercambridgeplanning.org). Site information can be found on the Call For sites pages on our local plan webpage: [Greater Cambridge Local Plan](#) (greatercambridgeplanning.org).
8. The next key member decisions in relation to the local plan, to be made by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet and Cambridge Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee, will be:
 - A report to members in January 2023 to confirm the preferred options for the Local Plan strategy and sites;
 - A report in Summer 2023 to consider the complete draft local plan prior to consultation.

Approach to JLPAG Meetings

9. Leading up to the next member decisions on the Local Plan further member engagement will now take place to explore issues raised in the First Proposals feedback and help to inform development of the draft plan. This will be via the Joint Local Plan Advisory Group (JLPAG), which was set up with the purpose of enabling such discussion.
10. A series of meetings of JLPAG is now taking place on an approximately monthly basis, with three sessions planned in 2022, and two sessions in 2023. Further information on the approach to these meetings was reported to and considered at the first session on 3 October 2022. The first session also considered the topics of vision and aims, and climate change. The session was livestreamed, and recording is available to view here: [Agenda for Joint Local Planning Advisory Group on Monday 3 October 2022 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/agenda/2022/10/03/jlpag).

Session 2: Strategy and Sites

11. This session will consider the comments received relating to the strategy and sites for the Local Plan. Summaries of the issues raised in representations are included as appendices to this report, with the full submissions available to view on the Councils' Local Plan website. The links in the section below link to the relevant sections in the interactive version of the First Proposals.
12. At this session officers will provide a presentation setting out what the First Proposals suggested as the preferred policy approach, key feedback that was received, and the next steps officers are taking to explore the issues, moving towards development of the draft plan.
13. The strategy and sites is a key element of the plan and has had the largest amount of comments of all the themes.
14. This section of the First Proposals set out the approach to development needs and where they should be met.

[Greater Cambridge in 2041 How much development and where?](#)

15. [Policy S/JH: New jobs and homes](#) - A key role of the plan is to identify the development needs that should be planned for. Following detailed studies taking into account most likely future level of jobs growth the following objectively assessed needs for development were identified in the period 2020-2041:
 - 58,500 jobs
 - 44,400 homes, reflecting an annual objectively assessed need of 2,111 homes per year, which is rounded for the plan.

16. The need for new homes includes all types, sizes and tenures of market and affordable homes, pitches for gypsy and travellers, plots for travelling showpeople, pitches for others residing in caravans, and residential moorings.
17. [Policy S/DS: Development strategy](#) - Much of the development to meet these needs is already committed, through allocations in the 2018 Local Plans and planning permissions. The First Proposals proposed how the remaining needs for jobs and homes should be met. Allocations to deliver against the housing need included an additional buffer amount of approximately 10% to deal with unforeseen circumstances and help give confidence that the needs can be delivered. The proposed development strategy to provide additional jobs and homes sought to take up opportunities to use brownfield land and respond to opportunities created by proposed major new infrastructure.
18. Within [Cambridge urban area](#) the strategy proposed:
- [Policy S/NEC: North East Cambridge](#) – a compact city district on brownfield land already identified for development, including a mix of jobs and homes;
 - [Policy S/AMC: Areas of Major Change](#) - Continuing existing sites and areas of major change allocated in the previous plan that we still expect to be delivered;
 - [Policy S/OA: Opportunity Areas in Cambridge](#) - Continuing existing opportunity areas and identifying new ones;
 - [Policy S/LAC: Other site allocations in Cambridge](#) - Smaller new sites for housing and employment well-integrated with existing neighbourhoods.
19. On [the edge of Cambridge](#) the strategy proposed:
- [Policy S/CE: Cambridge East](#) – a new mixed-use district on the existing safeguarded land at Cambridge Airport;
 - [Policy S/NWC: North West Cambridge](#) - Using land more effectively at North West Cambridge through intensifying development within the existing boundary of the site;
 - [Policy S/CBC: Cambridge Biomedical Campus \(including Addenbrooke's Hospital\)](#) - Supporting the nationally important Cambridge Biomedical Campus, including through a limited release of land from the green belt.
 - [Policy S/WC: West Cambridge](#) - The University Innovation District centred on West Cambridge/Eddington - supporting the continued development of this area, including encouraging a mix of uses to create a vibrant campus;
 - [Policy S/EOC: Other site allocations on the edge of Cambridge](#) - Continuing development at existing strategic sites allocated in previous plans, for example at Darwin Green.
20. At [New settlements](#) the strategy proposed:
- [Policy S/CB: Cambourne](#) - Evolving and expanding Cambourne into a vibrant town alongside the development of the new east west rail station, which will make it one of the best connected and most accessible places in the area;

- [Policy S/NS: Existing new settlements](#) - Continuing development at the new settlements of Northstowe, Waterbeach and Bourn Airfield allocated in previous plans – including faster housing delivery rates at the new towns of Northstowe and Waterbeach, so that more homes are provided by 2041 without an increase in the overall amount of development proposed.
21. At [the rural southern cluster](#), the rural area south of Cambridge, the strategy proposed:
- [Policy S/GC: Genome Campus, Hinxton](#) - Employment and tied housing at the Wellcome Genome Campus expansion – confirming the existing planning permission.
 - [Policy S/BRC: Babraham Research Campus](#) - Additional employment at Babraham Research Campus, through releasing the Campus and a modest area of additional land from the Green Belt.
 - [Policy S/RSC: Other site allocations in the Rural Southern Cluster](#) - New smaller sites for housing and employment in villages that have very good public transport access and are close to jobs, some of which are through release of land from the Green Belt.
 - [Policy S/SCP: Policy areas in the rural southern cluster](#) - Continuing allocations for existing sites allocated in previous plans;
22. In the [rest of the rural area](#), the strategy proposed:
- [Policy S/RRA: Site allocations in rest of the rural area](#) - Small new sites for housing and employment at villages that have very good public transport access, to help our rural communities thrive, New employment sites in the countryside meeting specific business needs; and
 - [Policy S/RRP: Policy areas in the rest of the rural area](#) - Guide development for new and existing policy areas within the rest of the rural area outside the rural southern cluster area.
23. The strategy also includes policies to support windfall developments in the rural area at a suitable level commensurate with the services and facilities available at different locations:
- [Policy S/SH: Settlement hierarchy](#) - sets out scales of development in different categories of village
 - [Policy S/SB: Settlement boundaries](#) – defines which areas are considered part of the settlements for planning purposes.
24. A key role of the planning system is to contribute to sustainable development. Each stage of plan making will be accompanied by a [Sustainability Appraisal](#) and a the [Habitats Regulation Assessment](#). The aim of this process is to test the options and policies being considered by identifying potential positive and

negative social, economic and environmental impacts, and highlighting opportunities to improve the plan.

Options

25. There are no decisions being sought by this report, although Members views are invited.

Implications

26. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

Financial

27. There are no direct financial implications.

Equality and Diversity

28. There is no decision to be made as part of this report. The development plans will each be subject to Equalities Impact Assessment at each stage during their development.

Climate Change

29. There is no decision to be made as part of this report. Notwithstanding, development plans provide an opportunity to address the aspects of the environment that can be influenced by the planning system. These aspects will be considered by a range of evidence including via a Sustainability Appraisal as the plans are prepared. One of the big themes for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan identified in The First Proposals is climate change. Evidence has been produced to inform the plan, including a study on how the plan can assist with the journey towards net zero carbon.

Health & Wellbeing

30. There is no decision to be made as part of this report. Notwithstanding, the vision and policies of the emerging Local Plan seek to support wellbeing and social inclusion.

Consultation responses

31. One of the main purposes of this series of meetings is to further explore the significant amount of consultation feedback received to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals.

Background Papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

[Terms of Reference of the Joint Local Planning Advisory Group](#)

[Greater Cambridge Local Plan – First Proposals consultation 2021](#)

[GCLP First Proposals Consultation Report 2022](#)

[Current Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme](#)

[Agenda for Joint Local Planning Advisory Group on Monday 3 October 2022 \(moderngov.co.uk\).](#)

Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of Representations on Development Strategy

Appendix B: Summary of Representations on Sites

Appendix C: Summary of Representations on Strategy: Quick Questionnaire

Appendix D: Summary of Representations on Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

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