

**Report to:** Joint Local Planning Advisory Group (JLPAG) 24 November 2020

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## **Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Strategic Options Assessment and Stakeholder Engagement**

### **Executive Summary**

1. This report seeks to feedback work on the identification and testing of strategic spatial options to inform the preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan (Local Plan), and the planned approach to the winter 2020 stakeholder workshops. The Local Plan being prepared jointly by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council will cover the period 2020-2041.
2. In June 2020 members agreed to include an additional stage of stakeholder engagement, prior to full public consultation on preferred options for the Local Plan in 2021.
3. Work has been undertaken to consider the options for homes and jobs growth for the Local Plan. Legislation and national planning policy require local plans to assess reasonable options to inform the plan's development strategy. The minimum number of homes is set by the government's standard method. Work has been carried out to understand the level of jobs these homes would support, which together provide a minimum growth scenario. In accordance with national objectives to consider an area's economic growth potential, and responding to the continuing strength of the Greater Cambridge economy, economic forecasting has been carried out. This had a particular focus on the sectors that the area excels in, as well as past trends of economic growth. This resulted in central and higher growth scenarios, translated into medium and maximum growth options, including the housing to support each level of jobs forecast also identified.

4. The possible growth levels have been distributed to different locations in Greater Cambridge to understand how well they perform in relation to the big themes identified for the Local Plan in the First Conversation consultation earlier in 2020. These strategic spatial options focus on broad locations to draw out the differences in impacts. They are not site specific. In reality, the Local Plan could take elements from a number of these spatial options. The spatial options have then been tested against a number of the emerging evidence base studies commissioned to inform the plan. These highlight the pros and cons, issues and opportunities related to the choices available. At this stage the Councils have not reached any view on the preferred approach to the development strategy for the Local Plan.
5. A Summary Report has been produced, alongside the range of evidence studies, which form appendices to this committee report. The documents have also been published on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service website.
6. Workshops are planned in late November and December 2020 to explore issues with key stakeholders. Comments and suggestions are invited from members of the advisory group on issues they would like to see explored in the workshops.

## **Key Decision**

7. No.

## **Recommendations**

8. The Joint Local Planning Advisory Group (JLPAG) is recommended to:
  - a) note initial evidence findings and exploration of options to inform the stakeholder engagement;
  - b) comment on the approach to the stakeholder engagement and issues that should be considered through the workshops.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

9. Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are preparing a joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan (Local Plan). In June 2020 members agreed to include this additional informal stage of stakeholder engagement, prior to the preferred options public consultation in 2021.
10. Identification and testing of options is an important part of the plan making process and publication of emerging evidence at this stage is intended to help inform the discussions around these options in workshops and amongst interested parties and communities. Evidence has been prepared exploring the growth and spatial options for the Local Plan and Members are asked to note the initial findings of the studies.

11. The workshops provide an opportunity to seek feedback and views on findings from a range of stakeholders. Members are asked to comment on the approach, and issues that should be considered.

## **Details**

### **Background: The Greater Cambridge Local Plan**

12. Both Councils adopted their current Local Plans in 2018. Both plans include a shared policy commitment to produce a joint Local Plan via an early review of those plans.
13. The engagement process for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan started in 2019 with an independent Lessons Learned and Good Practice Review, engaging with key stakeholders via structured discussions looking back at the previous Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans in terms of processes and outcomes. In July and September 2019, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service held a series of Local Plan workshops across South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge.
14. In January and February 2020. The 'First Conversation' consultation explored important issues that will influence how the Local Plan is developed, giving people the opportunity to inform and shape its direction before it is drafted. Early findings of the consultation were reported to this advisory group in June 2020. Full results of the consultation have now been published on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website, including the results of the call for sites.
15. In June 2020 both Councils agreed an updated Local Development Scheme, which sets out the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan. Members also agreed that there should be an additional stage of informal engagement in Autumn 2020. This would provide an opportunity to feedback and seek views from Members and stakeholders on key findings of a range of evidence that has been commissioned (e.g. Climate change, green infrastructure, water, transport, jobs and homes), the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal of strategic options, and what these mean for the strategy choices available. This would not be a full public consultation but a targeted stakeholder engagement, similar to the one carried out in summer 2019 that helped inform the subsequent First Conversation consultation. This would reflect the Councils' desire for engagement and transparency throughout the process of developing the preferred strategy for the Local Plan.
16. It was agreed that this additional stage would include:
  - A Joint Local Planning Advisory Group meeting to receive a report publishing key findings from the evidence work and testing of options, and the outcomes of the assessment of a range of growth levels and spatial strategy options.

- Stakeholder engagement workshops in November/December 2020 with a range of stakeholders, including members, parish councils and residents associations, statutory consultees and key interest groups, landowners, developers and planning agents, and businesses. Duty to cooperate meetings would also take place at this time.

## **Testing Strategic Options for the Local Plan**

### **Introduction**

17. This stage of plan making has involved a significant level of information, and a number of individual documents and studies. In order to draw all this information together a Summary Report has been produced, and this forms appendix A to this committee report. This section of the committee report provides a summary of the stage and the outcomes, but further information and detail can be found in the Summary Report itself, and the individual evidence documents.

### **The Purpose of this stage in the Plan Making Process**

18. The purpose of this stage of plan making is to test the high level strategic spatial choices available to the Local Plan, and to enable additional stakeholder engagement. This will help inform the Councils' thinking as they move towards identifying a preferred option for consultation in 2021. It is important to note that at this stage the Councils have not reached any view on the preferred approach to the development strategy for the Local Plan.

### **Identifying Options for Testing – Growth Level Options**

19. Three different growth level options have been identified, drawing on two key evidence studies, in order to test a range of scenarios:

- Greater Cambridge Employment Land Review & Economic Evidence Base Study (GL Hearn, with SQW, Cambridge Econometrics, and Icen Projects) (Reference document 2)
- Greater Cambridge Housing and Employment Relationships Report (GL Hearn with Icen Projects, Justin Gardner and Cambridge Econometrics) (Reference document 3)

20. National policy states that local plans should support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes. It provides a Standard Method for calculating the minimum number of homes to plan for. National guidance also indicates that there will be circumstances where it is appropriate to consider whether actual housing need is higher than that derived from the Standard Method. Reference document 3 confirms the minimum number of homes under

the standard method and the jobs that would be supported by that level of growth have been calculated. This provides a Minimum growth level option.

21. The Greater Cambridge Employment Land Review and Economic Evidence Base Study (Reference document 2) has been commissioned in accordance with national objectives to consider an area’s economic growth potential and the continuing strength of the Greater Cambridge economy. The work uses recent and longer-term historic growth rates to forecast the future performance of the Greater Cambridge economy and key sectors within it. The evidence identifies what it considers to be realistic central and higher economic forecasts and also the Housing and Employment Relationships Report (Reference document 3) identifies the housing to support those jobs. These provide ‘medium’ and ‘maximum’ growth level options respectively.

**Table 1 - Employment and housing growth level options for each scenario 2020-41 (rounded up to the nearest hundred)**

<b>Growth level option</b>	<b>Employment (jobs) - total</b>	<b>Employment (jobs) - per year</b>	<b>Housing (dwellings) - total</b>	<b>Housing (dwellings) - per year</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	45,800	2,181	36,700	1,748
<b>Medium</b>	58,500	2,786	42,000	2,000
<b>Maximum</b>	78,700	3,748	56,500	2,690

Source: Greater Cambridge Local Plan Development Strategy Options – Summary Report: Table 1 (Greater Cambridge Planning Service) November 2020

22. Significant levels of development already have planning permission or are allocated in the adopted 2018 Local Plans, and will come forward during the period of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Together with current estimates for windfall development this amounts to 36,400 new homes currently anticipated to be developed between 2020 and 2041 based on currently anticipated build out rates. A further 8,700 homes on these existing sites, at new settlements, are anticipated to be built after 2041 based on currently anticipated build out rates. Delivery from the adopted plans will be reviewed carefully and the supply could change, including as a result of a review of windfalls. Nonetheless, this figure is considered a reasonable assumption for the testing of strategic options. Taking account of these commitments and windfalls, the balance of homes to plan for against each growth level option is set out below.

**Table 2 - Residual Housing Growth requirements, 2020-41 (rounded up to the nearest hundred)**

<b>Growth level option</b>	<b>Total housing (including 10% buffer)</b>	<b>Development already in the pipeline (including windfalls)</b>	<b>Additional housing to be allocated on sites in the new Local Plan</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	40,300	36,400	3,900
<b>Medium</b>	46,200	36,400	9,800
<b>Maximum</b>	62,700	36,400	26,300

Source: Greater Cambridge Local Plan Development Strategy Options – Summary Report: Table 3 (Greater Cambridge Planning Service) November 2020

23. The Greater Cambridge Employment Land Review and Economic Evidence Base Study (ELR) (reference document 2) identifies that there is already a large amount of committed employment land in Greater Cambridge. It provides commentary on this supply, and makes recommendations for the Local Plan regarding issues related to the quantity and quality of employment land in different locations. The ELR concludes that whilst less space may be needed to accommodate the jobs anticipated from lower growth options, it is important to maintain a flexible employment land supply, that can respond to change and the future needs of firms.

**Identifying Options for Testing – Strategic Spatial Options**

24. The ‘*Greater Cambridge Local Plan: First Conversation*’ set out six broad spatial choices available in the area for accommodating new development. Further work since then has identified two further options (options 7 and 8 below).

- 1: Focus on Densification of existing urban areas
- 2: Focus on Edge of Cambridge: outside Green Belt
- 3: Focus on Edge of Cambridge: Green Belt
- 4: Focus on New Settlements
- 5: Focus on Dispersal: Villages
- 6: Focus on Public transport corridors
- 7: Focus on Supporting a high-tech corridor by integrating homes and jobs (southern cluster)
- 8: Focus on Expanding a growth area around transport nodes (western cluster)

25. Green Belt is an important policy designation, plays an important role in maintaining the special qualities of Cambridge as an historic city and of the surrounding area. The Green Belt restricts growth on the edge of Cambridge, a location that the evidence indicates has sustainability advantages in terms of access to jobs and services and reducing trips by the private car that could help mitigate our climate impacts. National planning policy requires that local plans consider the impact on sustainable development of channelling growth outside the Green Belt. We have therefore included green belt options in the testing process. At the same time, changes in national policy also mean that alternatives have to be fully explored before land can be removed from the Green Belt. This will be an important issue for the Local Plan to address.

26. For each of the broad spatial choices, growth levels were assigned commensurate with the minimum, medium and maximum growth level options, taking account of existing commitments. This approach to the options testing stage is at a strategic level and is not at this stage considering -specific sites. Instead, the purpose is to highlight the impacts of the different choices, rather than test individual sites. Each strategic spatial option seeks to focus the housing as much as possible on the location described, but in order to meet the numbers, the higher growth level options have required inclusion of other areas in some cases. It is important to stress that the strategy in the preferred option may be a blend of sites from a number of the locations. The strategic spatial options are put together to highlight and test the impacts of different choices, rather than provide a list of mutually exclusive options to pick the preferred option from. Further information on how the options were identified can be found in the strategic spatial options for testing – methodology document (Reference document 1)

### Testing the Strategic Options

27. The Local Plan is being informed by a wide range of evidence and studies. The studies commissioned by the Councils cover important topics such as climate change, green infrastructure, water, housing delivery and transport. Whilst many of these studies are still progressing, the consultants were asked to consider and provide interim reports on the opportunities and challenges relating to the identified growth and spatial options. The following interim studies are being reported (grouped around the big themes identified in the First Conversation consultation):

- **Climate change:** Net Zero Carbon Study and Integrated Water Management Study
- **Biodiversity and Green Spaces:** Green Infrastructure Study and Habitats Regulations Assessment
- **Wellbeing and Inequality:** Equalities Impact Assessment
- **Great Places:** Landscape Character Assessment
- **Homes:** Housing Delivery Study
- **Jobs:** Employment Land Review
- **Infrastructure:** Transport Study, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Viability Study

28. These interim studies are all published as appendices to this report.

29. It must be emphasised that no conclusions have been reached regarding the options at this stage.

### **Findings regarding the growth level options**

30. Whilst the range of studies provide information regarding the opportunities and challenges related to the levels of growth and spatial choices, two studies stand out regarding their conclusions on the scale of growth.

### **Water**

31. The Councils recognise that the water environment is an important issue for local communities. Reflecting this, an Integrated Water Management Study (Reference document 5) has been commissioned to inform the Local Plan, along with an independent expert review of it. The study identifies that the current level of water abstraction from the chalk aquifer is widely believed to be unsustainable for the Greater Cambridge area, with potential to cause environmental damage. Abstraction rates may need to be reduced significantly to safeguard natural river flow.

32. On that basis, the study concludes that there is no environmental capacity to increase groundwater abstraction from the chalk aquifer to supply the additional growth being tested for the new Local Plan. Whilst therefore existing Local Plan commitments can be accommodated, future water demand and supply for additional new sites will need to be balanced by a range of measures in other ways, including greater water efficiency in new developments, along with measures by the water companies such as reducing leakages and shifting to more sustainable water sources, to ensure no additional detrimental environmental impact from future growth. Longer term solutions will include major new regional water supply reservoirs and transfer schemes, already being planned and coordinated by Water Resources East, and anticipated to be operational from the mid-2030s.

33. Through such measures the current planned growth in the existing Local Plans, and the additional minimum growth option being tested for the new Local Plan are capable of being accommodated.

34. Current water supply constraints may not be absolute barriers to achieving medium or highest growth levels being tested for the new Local Plan, but they will not be achieved through 'business as usual'. Significant support from central government, financially and structurally, will most likely be required to develop new strategic supply options and infrastructure at regional scale (such as more rapid construction of new water supply reservoirs and transfer schemes).

35. Unless delivery could be achieved more quickly than normal processes would provide, these major infrastructure schemes will take time to implement, and this could result in the maximum growth level that has been tested not being achievable within the period of the new Plan.

## **Housing Delivery**

36. A Housing Delivery Study Interim Findings report (reference document 11) has been commissioned to consider the deliverability of different strategy options, and to inform how the Local Plan can help to maintain an appropriate housing land supply. Based on the interim findings to date, the maximum growth levels are unlikely to be deliverable in practice based on current market conditions and the UK housing market's traditional routes to delivery. A higher annual housing requirement than the medium option may be achievable, but the report says it is not possible to advise on what level of growth may be deliverable at this stage in advance of more detailed testing and engagement with the development industry.

## **Findings Regarding the Spatial Choices related to the big themes**

### **Climate change**

37. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Implications for carbon emissions report (Reference document 4) is clear that while it is possible to mitigate carbon from new buildings with higher efficiency standards and renewables, the carbon emissions from transport are more significant with regard to the location and distribution of growth. Locations which promote active transport modes and public transport use will generate lower additional carbon.

38. Adapting to climate change will also be important. The Integrated Water Management Study (Reference document 5) highlights the need to respond to flood risk. Some spatial choices allow more flexibility in how to do this, but it does not rule any out at this stage.

### **Biodiversity and Green Spaces**

39. The Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Baseline Report (Reference document 6) is being developed to identify specific and deliverable opportunities to enhance and expand the Green Infrastructure network. The Review of Strategic Spatial Options in relation to Green Infrastructure (Reference document 7) considers the strategic spatial options. There are recognised pressures from development on existing green infrastructure in or close to existing settlements; and smaller sites are more likely to have challenges in responding to larger-scale green infrastructure needs. Options involving larger-scale developments are more likely to provide a greater critical mass to respond effectively to green infrastructure needs. The strategic spatial options have also been subject to Habitats Directive Assessment (Reference document 8), which highlights issues that will need to be considered as the preferred option for the Local plan is developed.

### **Wellbeing and Inequality**

40. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) (Reference document 9) highlights issues related to the scale and location of growth, and the importance of access to services and facilities, a variety of employment opportunities, and appropriate housing. The availability of travel choices is identified as an important issue.

## **Great Places**

41. The Landscape and Townscape Considerations study (Reference document 10) highlights that all of the strategic spatial options would result in changes, both negative and positive, in terms of conserving and enhancing the character of Greater Cambridge's landscapes and townscapes. The Fens, Chalk Hills and River Valleys have sensitive landscape characteristics that are likely to be particularly vulnerable/susceptible to urban development. This may present constraints for higher growth scenarios associated with spatial options in these landscapes. The smaller historic villages and their landscape settings have sensitive townscape/landscape characteristics that are likely to be particularly vulnerable to change. This may present constraints for higher growth scenarios associated with spatial options focused on the dispersal of growth to existing villages. The historic townscape character and landscape setting of Cambridge is particularly vulnerable to change. This may present constraints for higher growth scenarios associated with spatial options focused on densification of the city and the edge of Cambridge.

## **Homes**

42. Beyond its conclusions regarding the overall levels of growth (see paragraph 36), the Housing Delivery Study Interim Findings (reference Document 11) looks at the opportunities and challenges of each spatial option. Options that mix short-medium term sources of supply (smaller sites in urban areas and villages) with longer-term sources (new settlements, urban extensions and Green Belt release) are better-able to deliver across the plan period.

43. The preparation of a new local plan that involves a significant uplift in the annual housing figure inevitably results in a delay to delivering at that higher rate while the plan is being prepared and examined, incorporating additional allocations that will enable delivery of the higher figure, inherently creating a shortfall at the time of adoption. The scale of the shortfall created by the significantly higher annual housing requirement results in a challenging five-year housing land supply requirement. The Councils would therefore need to pursue either a stepped annual housing requirement over the plan period or the use of the Liverpool method for calculating their five year supply for the majority of the spatial options to be able to demonstrate a five year housing land supply at plan adoption. A stepped trajectory could also be considered, with higher rates in the later part of the plan period responding to the time it could take to increase rates, or challenges such as the water supply issues.

## **Jobs**

44. The Employment Land Review and Economic Evidence Base study (Reference document 2) considers future employment land supply in Greater Cambridge. Much of the future employment needs of the area are likely to be met from committed sites, but it recommends a range of qualitative and quantitative issues to be addressed by the new local plan. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan Spatial Options Appraisal: Employment (Reference document 12) report considers how the strategic spatial options being tested respond to those issues, identifying a range of opportunities and challenges with regard employment provision and access to jobs.

## **Infrastructure**

45. The Transport Existing Conditions Report (Reference document 13) provides evidence of current transport conditions as a basis for modelling the effects of future growth on transport outcomes, the results of which are set out in a separate Transport Evidence Report (Reference document 14). This provides an initial phase of modelling for each of the strategic spatial options and gives a comparison of the impacts of each spatial option, for measures such as vehicle kilometres and mode share. This has been carried out for the maximum growth level options to understand the greatest potential impacts. The report compares this with a baseline run for 2041 that includes a range of committed transport infrastructure schemes for which completion can be assumed by 2041. A range of sensitivity tests are being carried out, including to consider the impacts of Cambridge Autonomous Metro (CAM) and East West Rail and of the minimum and medium growth level options, but these are not included in this initial version of the report. The report will be updated as the Local Plan progresses. The best performing options in transport terms were, the densification option (option 1), which performed best, along with the focus in the Integrating jobs and homes in a southern cluster option (option 7) on co-locating homes and jobs. At the other end of the spectrum, the dispersed village option (option 5) showed the highest car mode share and vehicle kilometres travelled.
46. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan - Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment (Reference document 15) explores the measures that would be needed to support and deliver the options. Higher growth level options would require more significant levels of infrastructure to support them, including transport infrastructure. Developments which would create a sufficient critical mass to fund and deliver significant new or enhanced infrastructure are more likely to be able to achieve delivery than options which include smaller more dispersed developments. The Viability Study (Reference document 16) is at an early stage. Whilst it currently indicates that all spatial options are viable, site-specific development costs, and emerging policy costs, will need to be fed in as the preferred option is developed.

## **Sustainability Appraisal**

47. The identification, testing and comparison of reasonable options through as Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a key part of plan making. A Sustainability Appraisal (Reference document 17) has been produced which provides a comprehensive assessment of the identified growth and spatial alternatives.
48. The SA process tests each option against a set of sustainability objectives, which respond to environmental, economic and social issues. This results in a large amount of information being captured in tables. In order to make the information more accessible, we have been working with consultants to develop new graphics to display the testing of each option.
49. The findings of the SA highlight the pros and cons of each option. The best performing options are those which densify or locate growth next to existing urban areas. Options involving new settlements perform well when supported by sustainable transport opportunities, and when they grow to a sufficient scale to support access to local services and facilities. Options dispersing significant levels of growth to a large number of villages performed least well.

## **Uncertainties**

50. There are other issues that are likely to have a bearing on the preparation of the Local Plan. These include the potentially prolonged economic uncertainty as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK's decision to leave the European Union. We will continue to update the evidence base as the plan is developed. National planning reforms, if implemented, would also have significant implications for the preparation and content of local plans.

## **Stakeholder engagement workshops**

51. The evidence in this report has been prepared to inform stakeholder engagement during winter 2020. This will not be a full public consultation, but a targeted engagement, similar to that carried out in summer 2019 which helped inform the First Conversation consultation.

## **Approach to the workshops**

52. The stakeholder engagement workshops will be held in November/December 2020 with a range of participants, including: council members, parish councils and residents associations, statutory consultees and key interest groups, landowners, developers and planning agents, and businesses. Engagement will also involve statutory consultees and Duty to Cooperate bodies. We are also holding a public webinar to enable members of the public to ask questions. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, and unlike in 2019, these events will be hosted on-line.

53. The workshops will provide an opportunity to feedback, and seek views on, the findings of the evidence, and to explore the issues and how they relate to the strategy choices available.
54. At each workshop officers will present findings and assessments to date. In doing so we will make clear that no final conclusions have been reached, and the evidence base for the plan is still being developed.
55. Breakout groups will be used to explore some meaningful questions around the key issues, and challenges facing the plan, for example:
- Density vs land take
  - Relationship of employment growth to housing growth
  - Providing a variety of homes while meeting net zero challenge
  - Paradox of village sustainability – jobs/homes/services vs transport/carbon
  - Green Belt vs beyond the Green Belt.
56. Members of the Joint Local Plan Advisory Group may wish to comment and provide feedback on particular issues they would like to see explored through the workshops.
57. The results and feedback will be documented in the Local Plan Statement of Consultation, which will accompany the preferred options consultation next year.

## **Next Steps – Preferred Option public consultation**

58. The evidence currently being reported represents an interim stage. The studies will continue to be developed as we move towards a Local Plan Preferred Option. A wider range of other issues are being explored to inform the Local Plan. The Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment is identifying and testing specific site options, including those submitted through the call for sites in 2019 and as part of The First Conversation consultation earlier this year. Work is underway to explore the housing needs of specific groups, including Gypsies and Travellers. Issue-specific topic papers and evidence documents will be supporting other policy areas that need to be addressed by the Local Plan, including taking account of feedback and responses received through the First Conversation consultation.
59. The Local Plan Preferred Options public consultation is scheduled for Summer / Autumn 2021. This will enable public consultation on the emerging preferred approach to be undertaken, and for the responses to be considered before detailed policies are drafted. It would include an explanation of the options tested and how they have been assessed to identify proposed preferred options. It will allow the emerging preferred approach to be tested with the public and wider interests prior to confirming the preferred strategy for the Local Plan and the drafting of detailed policy wording in a full draft Local Plan. It will also address other options that have been considered but not taken forward and the reasons why they are proposed to be rejected.

## **Options**

60. JLPAG members are invited to note the evidence findings, and provide feedback on the approach to the workshops, reflecting the approach agreed by both Councils in June.

## **Implications**

61. 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**

62. Currently anticipated to be within current budgets. This will be kept under review alongside other work priorities

### **Legal**

63. The review of the Local Plan process has been prepared with a view to ensure a legally compliant plan that is capable of being found sound at examination.

### **Staffing**

64. Currently anticipated to be delivered within our existing budgets. This will be kept under review alongside other work priorities.

### **Risks/Opportunities**

65. The Local Plan is a key corporate priority and will be monitored against the timetable to be set out in the Local Development Scheme.

### **Equality and Diversity**

66. Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) is one of the evidence bases put together to test the strategic options. This highlights issues relating to the different spatial choices. EQIA will be carried out at each stage of plan making.

## **Climate Change**

67. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to address the aspects of the environment that can be influenced by the planning system. As set out in this report, climate change is being considered by a range of evidence informing the plan. One of the big themes for the plan identified in 'The First Conversation' is climate change.

## **Consultation responses**

68. None.

## **Background Papers**

Documents related to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan are available to view on the Local Plan webpage at:

[www.greatercambridgeplanning.org](http://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org)

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: Greater Cambridge Local Plan Development Strategy Options – Summary Report (Greater Cambridge Planning Service) November 2020

Reference Documents referred to in Appendix A:

- o Reference document 1: Greater Cambridge Local Plan: strategic spatial options for testing – methodology document - (Greater Cambridge Planning Service) November 2020
- o Reference document 2: Greater Cambridge Employment Land Review & Economic Evidence Base Study (GL Hearn, with SQW, Cambridge Econometrics, and Icen Projects) November 2020
- o Reference document 3: Greater Cambridge Housing and Employment Relationships Report (GL Hearn with Icen Projects, Justin Gardner and Cambridge Econometrics) November 2020
- o Reference document 4: Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Implications for carbon emissions (Bioregional and Etude) November 2020
- o Reference document 5: Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Integrated Water Management Study (Stantec) November 2020

- o Reference document 6: Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Baseline Report (LUC) November 2020
- o Reference Document 7: Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping (LUC) November 2020
- o Reference document 8: Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Habitats Regulations Assessment (LUC) November 2020
- o Reference document 9: Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) - (Greater Cambridge Planning Service) November 2020
- o Reference document 10: Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Landscape & Townscape (Chris Blandford Associates) November 2020
- o Reference document 11: Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Housing Delivery Study – Interim Findings (AECOM) November 2020
- o Reference document 12: Greater Cambridge Local Plan Strategic Spatial Options assessment: Employment (GL Hearn, with SQW, Cambridge Econometrics, and Icen Projects) November 2020
- o Reference document 13: Greater Cambridge Local Plan Transport Existing Conditions Report (Cambridgeshire County Council Transport Infrastructure Policy and Funding Team) November 2020
- o Reference document 14: Greater Cambridge Local Plan Transport Evidence Report (Cambridgeshire County Council Transport Infrastructure Policy and Funding Team) November 2020
- o Reference document 15: Infrastructure Delivery Plan - Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment' (Stantec) November 2020
- o Reference document 16: Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Viability Assessment (Aspinall Verdi) November 2020
- o Reference document 17: Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Sustainability Appraisal (LUC) November 2020

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